



## MP calls for root-and-branch reform of Commons hours



By RICHARD FORD  
AND ROGER WOOD

PARLIAMENT'S working hours should be changed to encourage women to seek election and make MPs' work more effectively, a Labour MP urged yesterday.

The Commons should rid itself of old-fashioned working practices and start operating like a modern legislature rather than a gentlemen's club, Harriet Harman told MPs. She said that while tradition was important it was time for Parliament "to move out of the 17th century, into the 20th century and prepare itself for the 21st century".

She said: "Some House of Commons traditions hold us back. We need to change to work more effectively. We can hardly tell business and industry that

they need to change their patterns of employment if we find it impossible to change our patterns of work." The shadow health minister said that the existing parliamentary hours were old-fashioned, deterring women from seeking election and "exiled" men from their families.

John MacGregor, Leader of the House, agreed on the need for more women in Parliament, but said that working hours were not the only obstacle. He said he was willing to consider proposals for change, but they had to make sure that reforms did not add to working hours instead of reducing them. Mr MacGregor is believed to be anxious to reform working practices but doubtful about the chances of improving the hours.

The House begins work at 2.30pm Monday to Thursday

with its earliest finishing time being 10.30pm. On many occasions sittings go on much later. On Friday the House sits from 9.30am until 3pm. However, standing committees discussing legislation and select committees scrutinising the work of departments do operate in the mornings on Monday to Thursday.

Miss Harman, who is married with three children, said that the best option for change would be for the Commons' working day to be from 9.30am to 5.30pm. But she said this would cause difficulties from MPs from constituencies outside London who had to balance constituency work with commitments at Westminster. Her two alternatives are for the Commons to sit from 2.30pm to 10.30pm on Monday, from 11.30am to 7.30pm on Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday, and to sit from 9.30am to 3pm on Friday or from 11.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Thursday and from 9.30am to 3pm on Friday.

Criticising the existing Commons hours, Miss Harman said they deterred women from seeking entry to the House because they found it difficult to combine family responsibilities with the pattern of work. "One of the most awful things about this place is seeing male MPs speaking about the family, and what everyone else should be doing. But one of the preconditions for most people for coming into this place is abandoning their family, or in the case of male MPs, delegating it to their wives. People do not want to hear lessons on family life from people who would hardly recognise their own family were they not able to

look at their picture on their election addresses at general election time."

Miss Harman said that the after-dinner atmosphere in late debates reduced some arguments to a shambles and that very few MPs could claim to be "at their best" in the small hours of the morning.

Opponents of change argue that afternoon sittings allow time for committees to meet in the morning and for ministers to work at their desks in Whitehall. They also say it would limit the outside interests, particularly jobs, that MPs could hold.

Rejecting these arguments, Miss Harman said ministers rarely attended the House for questions other than those involving their own department; members on committees already had to

choose between attending the chamber or committee when there was an afternoon session of their committee and that it was ludicrous to frame working hours to suit MPs with outside interests.

Parliamentary hours vary enormously among member states of the European Community. In Denmark the parliament sits at 1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, at 10am on Thursday and at 10am or 11am on Friday. There is no sitting on a Monday. The Italian and French parliaments start at 9.30am, the German at 9am, in the United States at 11am or 12 noon, in Greece at 6pm unless there is a key bill. In Spain, the Speaker decides the timetable but important debates start in the afternoon while in Ireland, the Dail sits on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30am.

## British Rail gives go-ahead for first freight village

By MICHAEL DYNE, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S first purpose-built Channel tunnel rail freight terminal, capable of handling up to 800,000 tonnes of exports and imports a year, will be built in Wakefield, south of Leeds, British Rail announced yesterday.

The new £200 million, 200-acre complex, which will include gantry cranes for switching containers from road to rail, warehousing facilities and local delivery services, is the first of up to 12 regional freight terminals British Rail is planning to build throughout the UK.

Each terminal, known as a regional freight village, will offer British industry fast, regular, and efficient rail freight services to many European destinations. When complete, the network of freight villages could remove more than 400,000 lorry journeys each year from Britain's congested road network.

A typical rail freight journey between Wakefield and Milan, for example, will take 36 hours, reducing present road freight journey times by two days, thereby making rail

freight competitive with road freight for the first time since the construction of the national motorway system.

British Rail is at present negotiating with prospective private-sector partners over possible locations for the remaining freight villages, which are being planned for Strathclyde, Merseyside, Teesside, Manchester, the East, West, and South Midlands, South Wales, the West Country, and London.

The freight villages are seen as manufacturing industry as essential if Britain is to gain

and increase its access to continental markets after 1992. Some critics of the scheme insist, however, that freight villages will be insufficient to prevent the marginalisation of local economies in the north of England and Scotland.

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, has said that while Britain's track gauge is the same as continental track gauge, Britain's loading gauge, which governs the height and width of the wagons that can be taken through tunnels, under bridges, and past lineside structures, is considerably smaller than on the continent. Consequently, there is a danger that freight arriving by rail from the continent will be forced to switch to the roads before it arrives in Britain.

British Rail says that construction of a "continental gauge" railway running from the Channel tunnel up the spine of Britain would be prohibitively expensive, commercially unviable and would take decades to complete. By contrast, the rail freight village network can be in place when the Channel tunnel begins services in 1993, and at a fraction of the cost of the more ambitious schemes.

British Rail says, however, that because of restrictions in the Channel Tunnel Act, which prohibits the use of subsidies for the development of international passenger and freight services, the regional rail freight terminals will be built only if they can be proved to be viable.

The Wakefield terminal is expected to create up to 4,000 jobs, which could increase to 10,000 if it succeeds in attracting new businesses. The announcement was greeted with enthusiasm in Wakefield, an area which lost some 17,000 jobs during the 1980s because of the contraction of the coal industry.

Ian Brown, British Rail's rail freight director, said: "This is an exciting vision for the future. We believe that the Port Wakefield freight village will be a springboard for new opportunities, helping our customers to develop and add value to their businesses."

### Mystery of extra crew on flight

By KERRY GILL

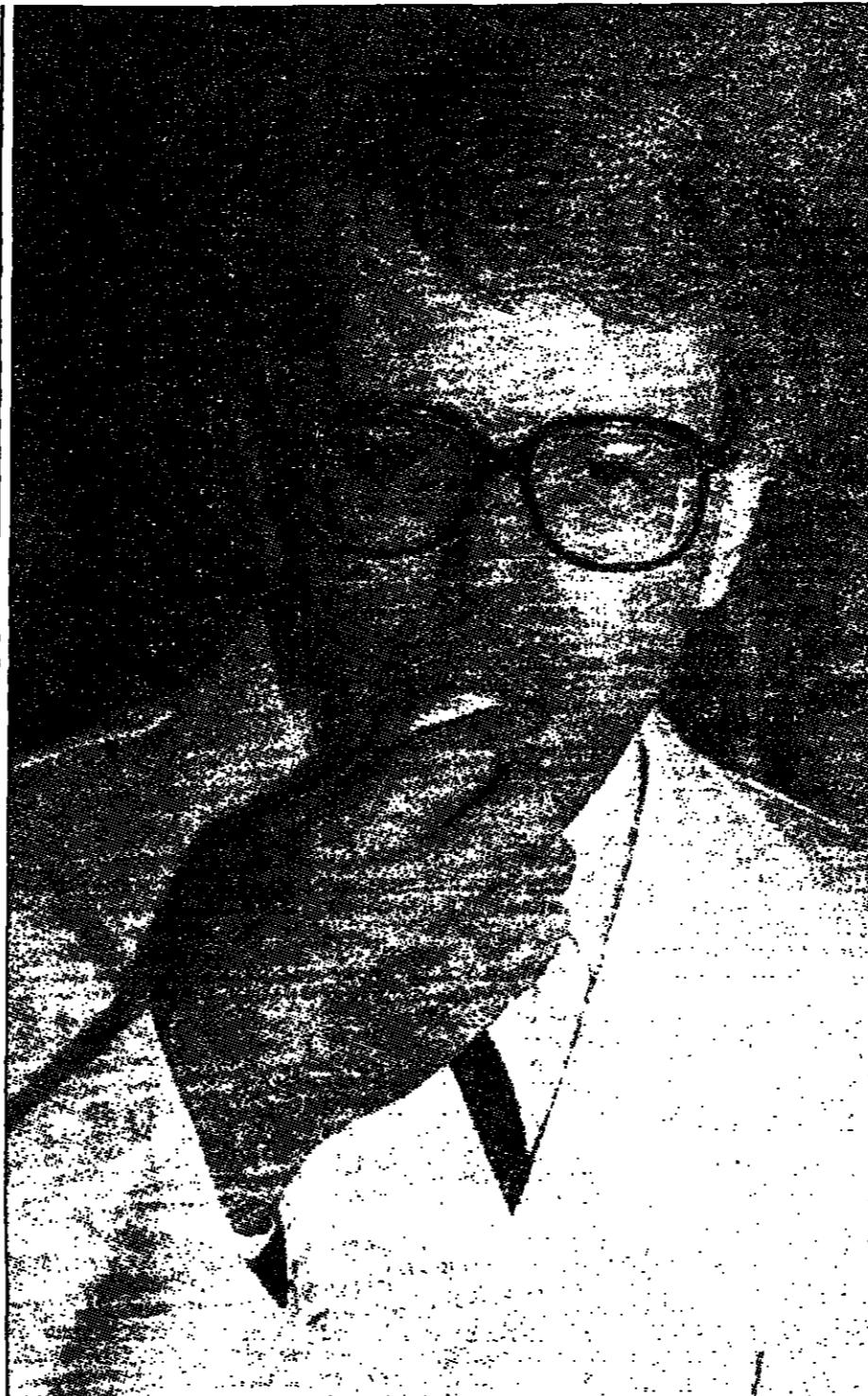
THE mystery over the identity of the extra crew member on the Pan Am flight that was blown up over Lockerbie remained unsolved last night as the judicial enquiry was adjourned until January 22.

The Dumfries enquiry was told that there should have been 12 cabin attendants on flight 103 to New York on December 21, 1988, but it was discovered that a thirteen crew member was on board when it left Heathrow.

Michael Sullivan, the airline's director of flight services at Heathrow, said he found out when he checked the purser's list after the bombing in which 270 people died. He said the normal cabin crew for a Boeing 747 was 13, but there should have been only 12 on that flight because of the number of passengers.

The question about the crew emerged when Mr Sullivan was cross-examined by Marina Larracoechea, whose sister Nieves, aged 39, was a stewardess on the flight. Asked why there had been 13, Mr Sullivan said he did not know. Miss de Larracoechea asked if it was possible that an extra person could arrive at the airport and, without anyone else knowing, join the flight crew. Mr Sullivan replied: "It should not happen, but it appears to have happened in this case."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign



Mr Major tasting the produce of a mushroom farm near Peterborough yesterday

### Major is content to remain the same plain 'plug-ugly'

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major told the world yesterday that he intended to remain the same "plug-ugly" that he always had been.

On his local radio station the prime minister dismissed any suggestions that he would allow the image-makers to get at him. But his disparaging description of himself sent Westminster observers to the dictionary. Had Mr Major inadvertently lifted a veil on a hitherto concealed part of his past? Plug-ugly, says Collins, means "extremely ugly."

However, it is also American slang for a city tough or ruffian and was originally applied to "ruffians in New York who attempted to exert political pressure."

The prime minister's rise to the top appears to have been blameless. He has certainly made few enemies on the way. If he has used rough tactics nobody seems to have no-

ticed. It seems, therefore, that he must have been recalling a description used by his father, Tom Major, of the vaudeville double-act Drum and Major, who toured musical halls and circuses in America as well as Britain.

Whatever the source, the remark shows Mr Major's determination to stay as he is and casts even greater doubt on reported recent sightings of Sir Gordon Reece and Tim Bell, Mrs Thatcher's PR handlers, near Downing Street.

He said of image-makers: "They have neither approached me, nor are they going to get at me. I shall be the same plug-ugly that I always was." The lowering of his voice, which some have noted, was due to a cold, he said. "Even chancellors and prime ministers are not immune from the common cold. I am what I am and people will

have to take me as I am. The image-makers will not find me under their tutelage."

Given Mr Major's desire to do things his way it was in keeping that he should give his first lengthy broadcast interview since his election to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, which covers his constituency.

Yesterday he made his first public appearance there since becoming prime minister. He opened a packaging department at a mushroom plant near Peterborough.

Last month of Glinton in Cambridgeshire turned out to watch him plant a tree marking the connection of the village to the gas network. Peter Grindrod, the primary school headmaster, said none of his pupils was old enough to have seen a male prime minister before. "The question has even been asked whether a man was allowed to be prime minister."

"I think not 'The Ripper', because my husband believed he killed them humanely in that when he took a hammer to the back of their heads they died instantly and he did not torture them when they were alive. That was his understanding."

Mrs Sutcliffe, aged 40, of Bradford, West Yorkshire, is suing the newspaper over an article alleging that she had a affair during a Greek holiday with George Papoutsis, described by the paper as a double of her husband.

She was being questioned by Barbara Jones, a journalist, who went with Mrs Sutcliffe on the holiday and has been joined to the court action by her husband.

The hearing resumes on Monday.

## Suicide inmate 'was fine' on the day before

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A SCHOOLBOY who hanged himself in Swansea jail, south Wales, had seemed perfectly normal 24 hours before his death, a prison doctor told an inquest yesterday.

Dr Russell Jones said prison staff disagreed with the opinion of social workers and probation officers that Phillip Knight, aged 15, was a suicide risk. He claimed an earlier incident, in which the boy had slashed one of his wrists, had been a "formal expression of resentment and anger".

Dr Jones was giving evidence on the second day of the inquest into the death of the schoolboy who was found hanging from a knotted sheet in his cell in July after being remanded on theft charges. He told the inquest that he saw nothing in the boy's mood the day before to suggest that he might commit suicide. The jail's suicide prevention group had found it "most disconcerting" that an inmate's mood could change so quickly. However, the court heard

### Sutcliffe no ripper, wife says

By PAUL WILKINSON

PETER Sutcliffe did not deserve to be called the Yorkshire Ripper because he killed his 13 victims humanely in an attempt to save their souls, his wife Sonia said yesterday.

Under cross examination on the fifth day of his High Court libel action against the *News of the World*, Mrs Sutcliffe said: "My view of this, and also in this instance there is police research, is that when my husband killed these people ... he was in the belief that those people were immoral, and he had a mission, and he was saving their souls from leading the sort of lives they were leading."

"I think not 'The Ripper', because my husband believed he killed them humanely in that when he took a hammer to the back of their heads they died instantly and he did not torture them when they were alive. That was his understanding."

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## Unionist's gesture to republic

A former Unionist Lord Mayor of Belfast is urging the city council to invite the new president of the Irish Republic to a civic reception.

The move by Councillor John Carson has divided the loyalist-controlled council but stands little chance of being accepted. Yesterday he announced his intention to table a motion next month proposing that Mary Robinson, who took office in Dublin on Monday, be invited to the city early in the new year.

### Palace intruder

A man was arrested by armed members of the royal and diplomatic protection squad in the grounds of Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon and taken to Bow Street police station. It is thought he scaled a wall to get in the grounds. He is expected to be charged over the incident. A palace spokesman said that the Queen was not at home at the time, though the Duke of York may have been.

### Attack on fans

A Metropolitan policeman working under cover among Arsenal football fans took part in a motorway attack on rival Tottenham supporters, a court heard yesterday. PC Michael Harris, aged 27, of Gray's Inn Road, helped to force off the road a car with Tottenham supporters. Kentsford crown court was told, dismissing his appeal against an earlier conviction for reckless driving and a suspended jail term.

### Hospital dispute

Staff at Britain's three high security mental hospitals will be locked out by management today unless they undertake to work normally after a dispute over travel allowances. Male nurses at Ashworth, Merseyside, staged a sit-down strike yesterday when three men were suspended. Similar action was planned today at Rampton hospital, Nottinghamshire, and possibly at Broadmoor, Berkshire.

### Art is still smart

Armenia 32: Bahrain 10:25; Austria 32: Belgium 10:25; Cyprus 9:30; Denmark 10:00; France 14:00; Germany 10:00; Greece 14:00; Holland 10:00; Italy 10:00; Japan 10:00; Portugal 10:00; Sweden 14:00; Switzerland 10:00; Turkey 10:00; Tunisia 12:00; USA 22:00.

Test Selection

The selection for the Test series against Australia will be made on December 10.

England 10:00; Australia 12:00.

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# Seven officers who beat man in pub brawl are dismissed

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN police officers accused of attacking and beating a man unconscious after a brawl in a public house were last night thrown out of the Metropolitan police for discreditable conduct. Sir John Dellow, the deputy commissioner, accepted a disciplinary tribunal recommendation calling for the men to be dismissed.

The dismissals are the largest number in recent Yard history. Last night a Yard spokesman said: "This represents the intention of the whole Metropolitan police from every police constable up to the top to rid itself of officers who abuse their positions of trust. Behaviour like this will not be tolerated. Officers need to know they are working alongside decent, honest, respectable people."

The men, who had been suspended on full pay since shortly after the attack at the Limes public house in Hackney, east London, three years ago, are Alan Barr, Paul Caddy, Peter Cissold, Paul Wells, David Thompson, Simon Haw and Carl Simon. All were constables in their 20s at City Road police station and they were yesterday removed from the police pay-roll.

The tribunal, including two members of the Police Complaints Authority and Terry Siggs, a deputy assistant commissioner, last month found the officers guilty after hearing of events while they were off duty in November.



Dellow: accepted plea to remove constables

## Balkan connection alert for Interpol

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

EARLY next year the head of every national drugs squad in Europe will gather at Interpol headquarters in Lyons, France, for an emergency meeting. Only one subject will be on the agenda: how to stem the flow of heroin pouring into Europe from Turkey.

This week's discovery by customs officers at Dover of a record 203 kilos of heroin hidden in a lorry from Turkey will raise few eyebrows in Lyons. Over the past year drugs squads have been alert to the risk of Turkish heroin flooding into western Europe and the growth of the Balkan route.

Last spring analysts warned that between 70 and 80 per cent of the heroin reaching European markets was produced by clandestine laboratories in eastern Turkey. The warning was timely. Over the summer months Interpol officials have been alarmed by drug seizures in Europe as

1987. The men denied the allegations. According to evidence an argument developed in the public house and Gary Stretch, a driver from Hoxton, east London, was set upon. Mr Stretch, aged 27, was hit over the head with a broken beer glass, which partially severed his ear, dragged outside and kicked unconscious.

He was temporarily blinded by the beating, and spent five days in hospital while his ear was stitched up and his neck put in a brace. At one stage he was told he could face charges. The officers have remained suspended on full pay, totalling £300,000, since shortly after the complaint.

In January 1989, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. The Police Complaints Authority then supervised the inquiry by Scotland Yard's Investigation

ROCKY the veteran dolphin may appeal against their dismissal and have 21 days to lodge notice with Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. He will then appoint a tribunal consisting of a QC, a retired chief constable and a retired officer up to the rank of inspector, which is likely to order a rehearing of evidence. The tribunal then reports its conclusions to Mr Baker to make a final decision.

ROCKY the veteran dolphin

regulations, they would not prevent the animal welfare organisation Zoo Check from flying the dolphin to the Turks and Caicos islands.

The judge cancelled an emergency injunction granted last Saturday which prevented Flamingo Land from interfering with Zoo Check's plans.

Judge Bruce Laughland, QC, said at the conclusion of the two-day case: "Each court costs at least £25 a minute to run, not including counsel and solicitor's fees. Pursuing this matter and holding a trial by jury was an unjustified waste

of public time and money." This will cost the taxpayer an estimated £13,300.

The court heard that Keith Gonzaz, aged 31, of central London, filled up his car with £10 worth of petrol but accidentally put in an extra 2p worth. When he refused to pay the two pence, an argument followed with the cashier at the garage in Hackney, north London.

Gonzaz pointed his rolled-up umbrella at the cashier and made a machine gun noise and drove off. The cashier pressed the panic button, which alerted police, and Gonzaz was arrested a few minutes later.

The incident resulted in his being charged with possessing an imitation firearm, affray and threatening behaviour. The judge ordered not guilty verdicts to be entered for affray and the firearms charge. Gonzaz was found not guilty of threatening behaviour.

## ELV1S goes for £66,000

Anson Lane, a businessman who does not own a car, yesterday bought the ultimate in pop music number plates — ELV 1S.

Mr Lane, an avid fan of the late Elvis Presley, paid £66,000 for the number. "I have a leased company car so now I will have to go out and buy a car of my own. A pink Cadillac would seem appropriate," he said.

Mr Lane, aged 47, a computer information systems manager, of Brighton, said: "I applied to the Government to buy the ELV 1S plate in 1976 but they refused to sell it. It has been a long wait." The number had been expected to break the record of £176,000, which was paid for 1A last December.

Nearly 800 people attended the sale at Christie's of 69 registration numbers by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA), which raised a total of £1,313,950 with buyers' premium. The highest price paid was £88,000 for the number 1S which went to an unknown buyer. All prices were subject to 15 per cent VAT.

The prime minister missed out on the sale of MAJ 1D which went for £24,000 and the chancellor was not there to bid for TAX 1T which fetched £8,250, 15 VAT (£5,000) and DEB 1T (£8,800). Other numbers sold included SUS 1E for £35,000, 300 SL (£26,500), 1GG (£21,000), 1SPY (£16,000), H2 EAU (£10,000).

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

### Ingham the loyal leaker

"Heath and Whitelaw were like schoolboys trying to suppress a fit

of the giggles at morning assembly. Ingham, even redder in the face than usual, made his way back to his pew. After the service he slipped away through the throng of journalists and politicians and was lost in the crowd on Fleet Street."

Robert Harris, from his unauthorised biography of Bernard Ingham, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

### Art is still smart

"And we are not talking about any old private views, with warm white wine and soggy Ritz crackers, held in those funny parts of London that aren't in W1 or SW something-or-other. A commissioner stands at the portals to keep out the riff-raff..."

Kate Saunders on stylish art, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

### Test Selector

Win up to £6,000 in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow by playing the ultimate cricket game. Tomorrow's Test Selector is Greg Chappell.



## By horse to petition for stag hunting

Anthony Trollope Bellew, chairman of the Quantock Staghounds, riding through London yesterday with his wife Annabel to deliver petitions to the National Trust urging it not to ban deer hunting on land it controls.

Last month members passed a vote calling for a ban at the trust's annual general meeting and next week the matter is to be discussed by the 52-man governing council of the trust (Michael McCarthy writes). Although the vote is not binding, the council will be under pressure to take account of it.

A ban would mean an end to stag hunting in Somerset's Quantocks, and would threaten the sport of another pack, the Devon and Somerset, which hunts on Exmoor. The third West Country pack, Tiverton, is not likely to be affected.

The petitions, one signed by 250 landowners, the other by 3,700 local people, say that without the controlling influence of stag hunting the deer would not survive.

## Dolphin dispute over

ROCKY the veteran dolphin

regulations, they would not prevent the animal welfare organisation Zoo Check from flying the dolphin to the Turks and Caicos islands.

The judge cancelled an emergency injunction granted last Saturday which prevented Flamingo Land from interfering with Zoo Check's plans.

A SENIOR judge at the central criminal court yesterday criticised the thousands of pounds of public money wasted in bringing to trial a man who refused to pay a 2p bill.

Judge Bruce Laughland, QC, said at the conclusion of the two-day case: "Each court costs at least £25 a minute to run, not including counsel and solicitor's fees. Pursuing this matter and holding a trial by jury was an unjustified waste

of public time and money." This will cost the taxpayer an estimated £13,300.

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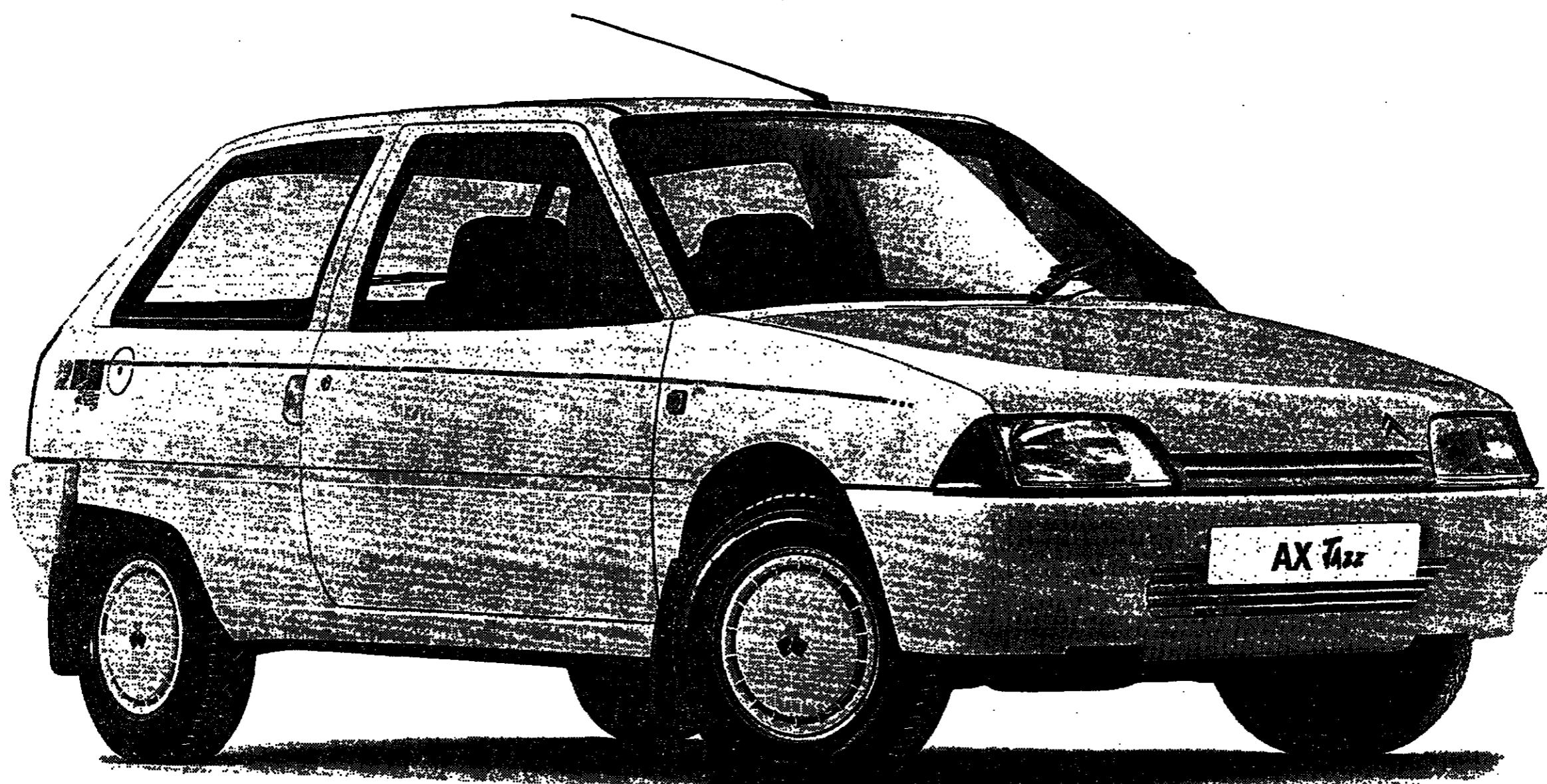
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FIGURES AX 10E: URBAN CYCLE, 50.4MPG; CONSTANT 56MPH, 72.4MPG; CONSTANT 73MPH, 50.4MPG. SOURCE OF INFORMATION: MANUFACTURER. DISTANCE LONDON TO NEW ORLEANS: 4628 MILES. SOURCE: BRITISH AIRWAYS.

# Heseltine told that poll tax changes now may raise bills

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, was warned yesterday that any major changes to the community charge system before next April would increase poll tax bills for most people.

Although Mr Heseltine has said that it may take up to two years to reform the poll tax he is known to be considering short-term measures to iron out some of the unfairness in the system before next year's bills go out. The prospect of an early general election is concentrating attention on the need to make the tax more palatable to the electorate.

## Court at Grantham jails charge evader

By DAVID YOUNG

GRANTHAM, still best known as the birthplace of Britain's first woman prime minister, has now gained notoriety by becoming the first town to jail a citizen for non-payment of the poll tax.

Bryan Wright, an unemployed builder, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, was jailed for 21 days yesterday for what Jill Speechley, the Grantham magistrate, described as "his wilful refusal and culpable neglect" to pay his community charge.

He admitted owing a total of £345.21, which includes legal and bailiffs costs. The poll tax set by the local South Kesteven council is £277, one of the lowest in the country.

Mr Wright, a single man in his twenties who lives with his parents, told the court that he had been out of work since last week following a driving ban being imposed in the same court. Miss Speechley said that the figures he gave showed that until this week he had £50 a week disposable income from which he should have paid his community charge.

The All Britain Anti Poll Tax Federation said yesterday that it is planning to stage a mass demonstration in Grantham next weekend to

press for the release of Mr Wright and is also to ask Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, to intervene.

Steve Nally, the federation's secretary, said that his organisation, which has already held demonstrations at the court, regarded the prison sentence on Mr Wright as a barbaric medieval measure. "No one in this day and age should be sent to prison for poverty, especially as the whole issue of the poll tax is now under review," he said. "It is ridiculous that Mr Wright should face spending Christmas in prison when the poll tax is now seen as having been discredited."

A spokesman for South Kesteven District Council said: "We take no delight in being the first council to take the action which led to a defaulter being put behind bars. We would rather be the first council to have everyone pay up. But we hope this action will act as a warning to others. We feel that many people could now find the money and pay the tax."

Gary Freeman, secretary of the Nottingham Anti-Poll-Tax Union, said the council would find themselves subjected to "a campaign like they have never seen before".

## Trial date fixed for Scargill

ARTHUR Scargill, the miners' leader, and Peter Heathfield, secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, are to face trial on charges of failing to keep proper union records.

Magistrates in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, yesterday adjourned the cases and fixed June 17 for the hearing. It is expected to last a week.

Mr Scargill is accused of wilfully neglecting to ensure proper records were kept and aiding and abetting Mr Heathfield in doing so. Mr Heathfield is accused of failing as an NUM officer to discharge his duty in relation to the union's accounts.

The NUM is charged with not keeping proper accounts, and not maintaining a satisfactory system of control and accounting records.

## Tourist attraction to go underground

By RONALD FAUX

DEVELOPERS of a Cumbrian centre designed to attract tourists away from the overcrowded "honeypots" and into the neglected northern fringe of the Lake District propose to bury the scheme beneath a field to pacify local objectors.

"There will be nothing to see but rolling grass, grazing sheep and an inoffensive cave entrance. Nothing else will strike the eye," John Dunning, director of Westmorland Motorway Services, said. The company has put the scheme to the Eden district planning department.

Beneath the field at Slapstones near Penrith there is planned a £6 million development covering almost six acres that would promote the culture and explain the her-

itage of Cumbria. The three levels of the development in a man-made 50ft high cavern would contain conference rooms, display areas, shops and a restaurant.

"The centre would point to the many leisure and tourist attractions this area offers and the artistic and craft activity that goes on," Mr Dunning said. Consultant to the scheme is the architect Arthur Quarney, an enthusiast for "earth sheltered" structures.

The Slapstones centre would employ about 100, but faces strong objection from residents in the village of Stainton near by. They say they would not welcome any commercial intrusion in open countryside or the dirt and disturbance that 400,000 visitors would bring.

## Experts say Mersey barrage plan would endanger ships

Concern over plans to generate 'clean' power by harnessing the Mersey's tidal force is examined by Nick Nuttall

QUEUEs of a hundred ships could occur on the Mersey if plans to build a barrage to generate electricity from the river are given parliamentary approval, a report disclosed yesterday.

A team of Dutch consultants, which carried out research commissioned by the river's three main shipping users' groups, concluded that the barrage might also increase navigational dangers, lead to heavy build-up of silt, and undermine the economy of docks near by. The users' groups announced that they would seek talks with Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, to discuss their concerns.

The report, compiled by Port Advisory Services with Delft University and Delft Hydraulics Laboratory, said: "In the construction stages ships will encounter high current velocities, not only in front of the locks but also in parts of the shipping lanes." It added: "This will require high-speed ships, which will mean that tugs will be unable to control a vessel in the case of an engine or rudder failure."

The Mersey Barrage Company (MBC), a consortium of more than 20 local and national companies, hopes to lay a bill before Par-

liament next year to build a £800 million power scheme to produce "clean" electricity from the river's tides.

Backers of the scheme believe that the project will also play a key role in revitalising one of the country's more depressed areas by creating thousands of jobs in construction, tourism and leisure. It would be the first electricity-generating barrage in Britain and could act as a catalyst for other schemes around Britain's coast.

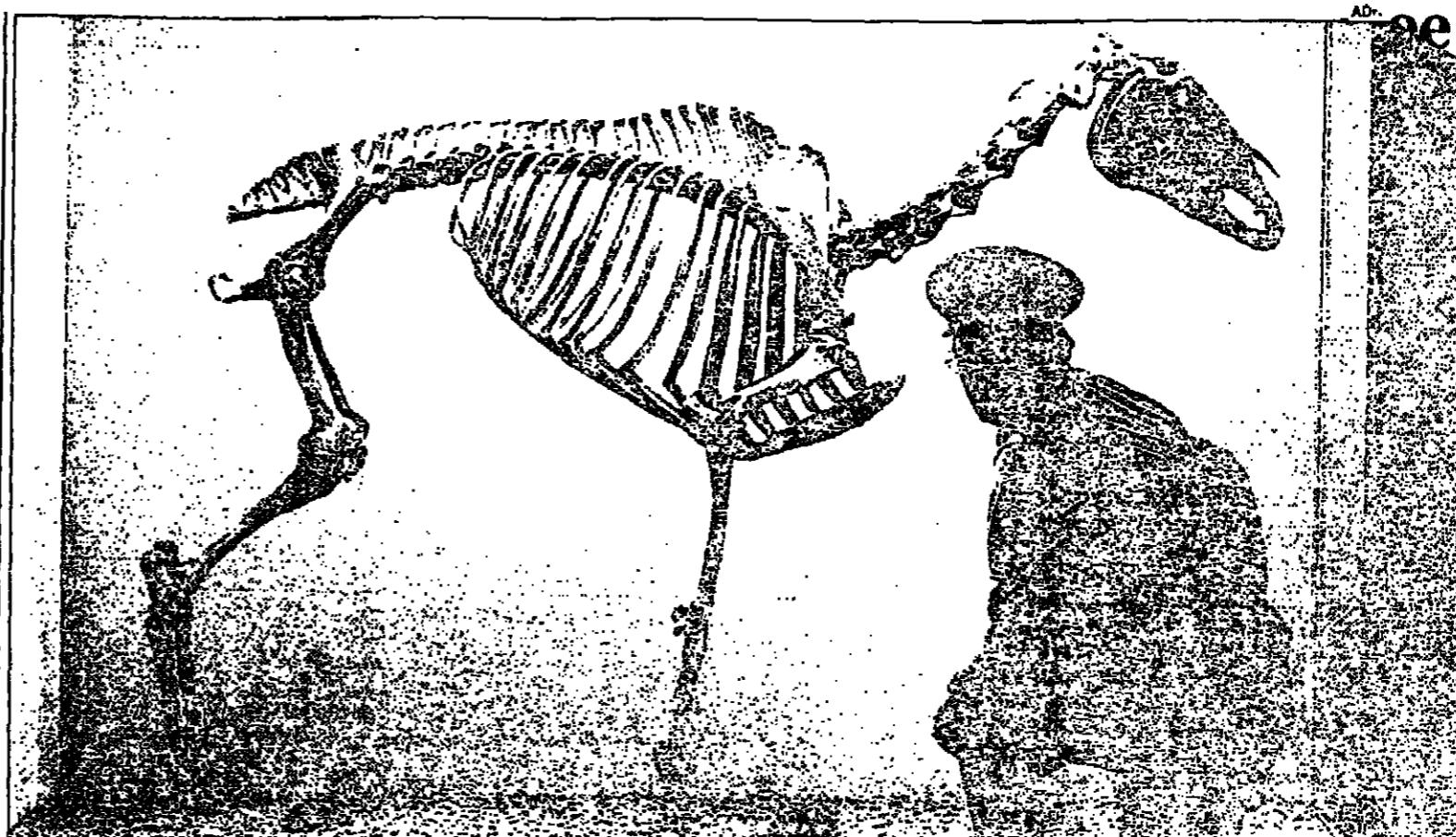
James McCormack, general manager of the barrage company, said that he had issued instructions for experts to compare the Dutch findings with those of engineers working with river barrages in Europe and the United States. He said that many of the apparent problems identified by the users' consultants had already been addressed by their own team. "We believe the latest design changes, which re-

locate the turbines and revise the sluices proposed, already answer many of the criticisms," Mr McCormack said.

The company had recognised from the outset that the 700-megawatt scheme, capable of saving 750,000 tonnes of coal a year, would only get parliamentary approval with the support of local interests. The new study, however, commissioned by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, the Manchester Ship Canal Company, and Shell UK, estimated that up to 30 potentially dangerous incidents could occur annually after construction of the barrage.

The researchers said that such incidents could arise through the operation of the tidal barrage's turbines and sluices, as well as from shifts in currents, tides and eddies caused during the barrage's construction. Other fears concerned dangers to shipping from floating construction equipment and craft.

The findings are expected to be passed through the transport department to an exceptional ministerial committee that is examining the effects of the scheme on employment and the environment as well as technical difficulties.



Boney's horse: The skeleton of Napoleon's favourite charger, Marengo, went on show yesterday at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, London. The skeleton and the saw used to amputate the Earl of Ulster's leg are two of the more bizarre exhibits, which include a large model of the Battle of Waterloo, covering 420 sq ft and including over 70,000 figures. The model, which has not been on show for 30 years, has been restored. The exhibition, 'Road to Waterloo: the British Army and the Struggle against Revolutionary and Napoleonic France, 1793-1815', is open every day (Sunday afternoons only), admission free.

## Rising religious interest reflected by churches

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE surprising growth in the number of communicants in the Church of England reflects a trend that is being felt in Britain's other leading churches, according to figures published yesterday.

Details released earlier this week by the Church of England show the first official increase in church attendance since records began. Although neither Roman Catholics nor

methodists can report an increase in members, the decline which has taken place at their

churches over the past 20 years has slowed.

The Catholic Education Council reported yesterday that about 1,350,000 people attended mass regularly in England and Wales: 4,200,000 last year compared to 4,240,000 in 1988 and nearly 4,300,000 in 1979.

Father Philip Carroll, assistant general secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "There is no feeling of empty churches. The percentage of the Sunday mass congregation involved in other activities like

the Third World, justice and prayer is on the increase. I have noticed without any doubt an increase in interest in spiritual matters over the last ten years. A considerable interest in the transcendent has developed."

In the Methodist Church, the community roll has declined from 1,340,000 in 1986 to 1,320,000 last year. Church membership has fallen from 450,000 to 431,000. However, baptisms have increased each year for the past three years,

Clifford Longley, page 10

## Picture Christmas and New Year in a new light!



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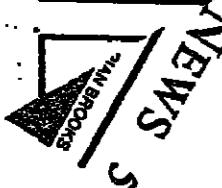


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# Right to save ancient Avebury from modern life

JULIAN HERBERT

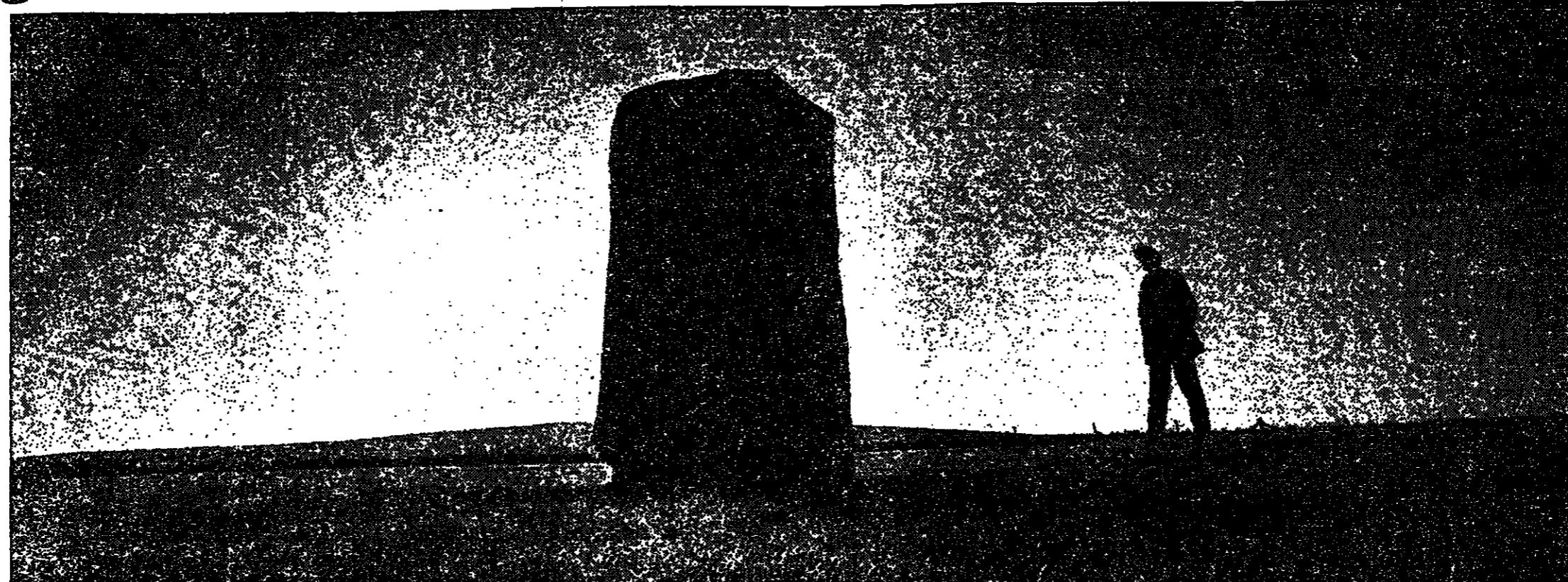
the  
ancient  
Avebury  
could show the  
way for other  
threatened sites,  
says John Young

ON A hill about a mile and half from Avebury, the Ridgeway, the ancient path across the Berkshire and Wiltshire Downs, comes to an abrupt halt at the A4. Immediately opposite, the famous avenue of neolithic stones leads to the great stone circles on the edge of the village.

A patch of newly grassed ground marks the site of a former transport cafe, demolished by the National Trust, which bought it earlier this year after the government rejected plans for a hotel and conference centre. That was round one to the conservationists who are seeking to prevent developers from moving in on one of the great ancient monuments of Europe.

Round two is being fought just down the road, where a grade two listed farmhouse stands empty, surrounded by derelict farm buildings and overgrown weeds. That too, is the site of a proposed hotel and conference centre, the subject of a public enquiry that ended 18 months ago. Although the property is now in receivership, the environment department has yet to announce a decision. The two-acre site was sold to the would-be developer for £985,000 and, with planning permission, could be worth up to £7 million.

Round three is taking place within the village itself, at the



Chris Gingell of the National Trust near one of Avebury's incomparable neolithic stones earlier this week. The trust has been buying land to safeguard their setting and is to return downland to pasture

Elizabethan Avebury Manor, where Ken King, a builder and developer from St Albans, has fallen foul of the planning laws. After buying the house in 1988, Mr King set about building an estate office, a courtyard of shops and workshops, a garden centre and other additions without seeking planning permission. Work was halted on the orders of Kennet

district council, whereupon Mr King applied for retrospective consent. That was refused and was the subject of another public enquiry, the outcome of which is awaited.

Since then Mr King has been prosecuted by the council for making unauthorised alterations to listed buildings. He was found guilty at Marlborough magistrates' court and fined £1,000 on each of a number of specimen charges.

The present ownership of the manor is not clear, but Mr King has moved to lodgings in the village. This week he was seen outside the house with a furniture van; when he saw a photographer and myself at the gate, in the company of Chris Gingell, the National Trust warden, he became abusive and threatening and, although we were on a public right of way, claimed that did not entitle us to loiter.

Despite its antiquity, the importance of Avebury, now a world heritage site, was scarcely recognised until Alexander Keiller bought the manor in the 1930s and began excavating and restoring the stones, most of which had been buried. Recent research by archaeologists from English Heritage and Southampton university, using scientific equipment, indicates that a large number of stones and other features have yet to be unearthed; their work is described in a book, *Avebury Revisited*.

Although almost all the land is owned by the National Trust, the maintenance of the principal monuments, including the stones, the long barrows and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric monument in Europe, is the responsibility of English Heritage. That is proving a somewhat uneasy partnership.

Meanwhile, the trust has been buying as much land as possible in the area to safeguard Avebury's incomparable setting. An appeal launched last year has all but reached its £750,000 target and allowed the purchase of a further 500 acres, bringing the total to 1,500 acres. The agricultural recession has worked in the trust's favour in that most farmers have been only too willing to sell. Much

cil's district secretary and solicitor, said: "In the event Mrs Mitchell withdrew the statue and three other items."

About 20 items were still sold, however, because of the impossibility of proving they had been in the garden since 1948, as the revised rules on listed buildings require. "When we removed the items from the house we were told the listing didn't apply to the statuary," Chris King, for Sotheby's, said. The auction house has been criticised recently

for attempting to sell many listed artefacts. After complaints by the Victorian Society, it withdrew five lots from a sale of arms and armour from Thoresby Hall in Nottinghamshire in the summer of last year, but refused to withdraw 268 further lots. The tomb of one of Queen Victoria's first cousins, from the church of St Charles Borromeo in Weybridge, Surrey, was withdrawn from auction after intervention by the society and English Heritage last January.



Ken King photographed last year in front of the listed Avebury Manor, which he bought in 1988. He has been convicted of making unauthorised alterations to it

## Hillsborough police win inquest costs

By PETER DAVENPORT

SIX police officers involved in the Hillsborough disaster yesterday won the battle to have their legal representation paid for at the inquest into the tragedy.

South Yorkshire Police Authority had previously refused a request for legal costs from the men, a chief superintendent, three superintendents and two constables. However, at yesterday's meeting in Barnsley the authority reversed the decision.

It will mean that the officers, including the commander at the match, Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, will not have to pay for lawyers at the inquest, which is expected to continue until March.

Sir Jack Layden, the authority chairman, said the decision had been reached because of new information presented to the meeting. The officers had been covered by insurance policies for legal representation and once those funds were exhausted the

authority would give the required financial assistance.

Richard Wells, chief constable of South Yorkshire, said after the private meeting: "I am pleased and relieved at this decision. It will now mean that these officers are not disadvantaged in the level of legal representation they can have."

Mr Wells warned, however, that government spending limits could "seriously curtail" the ability of his force to deal with major incidents, disorder and serious crime.

In a report to the authority he said that the financial measures would also "markedly reduce" the effectiveness of day-to-day policing. Under government limits for 1991-2, the force can spend £54.6 million before facing capping. A spokeswoman for the authority said yesterday that that would leave a shortfall of £4.5 million if the force were simply to maintain existing services. Mr Wells out-

lined the impact of cuts on the force and the service it could deliver if it had to keep within the limits.

If there was a freeze on recruitment the current strength of the force would fall from 2,998 to 2,878 - 297 less than the last establishment review recommended and a figure that gives the authority the worst officer/population ratio of all metropolitan forces.

The force would also have to replace lost civilian personnel in important areas with police officers, causing a further reduction of 220 staff. The operational effect of losing so many staff from normal duty by March 1992 would mean a reduction of 30 officers per division. Increasing demands on officers would also exacerbate the effects of the cuts. In the first six months of this financial year South Yorkshire dealt with 5,000 more reported crimes and 16,000 more incidents than in the same period last year.

One way to limit the effects of cuts, Mr Wells said, would be to take money from force reserves, which currently stand at about £2.4 million. That would, however, mean the force would be less able to meet the cost of unforeseen incidents, such as a disaster at next year's World Student Games in Sheffield.

Members of the authority are to lobby local MPs and seek a meeting with Home Office ministers in an attempt to secure extra resources before setting the budget for the next financial year.

## Fans dived under horses

FOOTBALL supporters dived beneath police horses to join a crush outside Hillsborough football ground on the day 95 people died, an inquest in Sheffield heard yesterday.

PC Stephen Fry told the hearing that mounted police officers had formed a cordon across the entrance to the Leppings Lane turnstiles because of the crowd pressure, but people anxious to see the match kept on pushing. Fans

were diving under the bellies of police horses. "Some people could see the sense of the police appeal to stand aside but there were others who were incapable or just didn't care," Mr Fry added.

Earlier, Ralph Salt described as absurd estimates that up to 5,000 pints of beer were sold from his pub on the afternoon of the disaster. He estimated sales at about 1,000 pints to between 200 and 300 people.

(Continued from page 1)

Under the CFE inspection protocol details are arranged down to the equipment approved for checking that no one is cheating. In addition to the usual armament of cameras, binoculars, tape recorders and tape measures, the CFE inspectors will be allowed to carry laptop computers to record their observations. "Mind you, I don't suppose we will be using laptops in the Soviet Union when it's freezing," Colonel Roy Giles, Jacig's commanding officer, said. "We will probably stick to notebooks and pencils."

In a demonstration of Jacig staff skills, Colonel Giles showed

off military personnel, supported from a country called Lincolnia, dressed in flying suits and combat jackets and pretending to be East European inspectors checking on Tornados and Saxon armoured vehicles at the site.

The 96 Russian-speaking inspectors at Jacig are supported by 22 personnel. When the CFE treaty is ratified by the 22 countries, probably in May, the inspectors from Scampton will form teams of nine and be ready to start their work. "They have all undergone recognition courses, so that they know the difference between the T72 tank and a T55," Colonel Giles said.

The commanding officer, aged 52, a Russian speaker for 30 years, admitted there was potential confusion over what he called simultaneity. For, once the CFE treaty is in force, Jacig will have

## Government rules 'could end Channel swimming'

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE sport of Channel swimming could end because the government is imposing expensive regulations on the small craft that act as escort boats, the Channel Swimming Association (CSA) says.

The transport department has warned Channel pilots that they must bring their commercially hired boats up to higher standards by complying with existing regulations on low-line certification and master licences.

Mike Oram, a pilot, said it could cost up to £5,000 a boat to comply with the rules. He had to cancel all his bookings from around the world for next summer. Those included a group of former transplant patients who were aiming to raise £1 million for charity.

He said the transport department was imposing standards for 200-tonne boats on small vessels that were normally accepted as pleasure craft.

The CSA is asking Robert Atkins, the sports minister, to intervene. Ray Scott, chairman of the CSA, said the sport had been going for 116 years and there had never been any complaints about the safety of the boats or the ability of pilots and crews.

However, transport department spokesman said there had been a near miss this year between a swimmer and a ship because the escort boat did not have a load-line limit. The channel was the busiest shipping route in the world. Swimming it was a bit like walking across the M1.

to cope with inspection and escort teams arriving from three separate East/West agreements. "Theoretically, they could all fall on the same day," Colonel Giles said.

Apart from CFE, there is the Stockholm agreement, enforced from January 1987, which allows foreign inspectors into Britain to observe military training exercises, and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, involving Soviet checks on the two cruise missile bases at Greenham Common, Berkshire, and Molesworth, Cambridgeshire.

Although the INF treaty was signed only by the United States and the Soviet Union, Britain has to supply Russian interpreters and escorts to monitor Soviet visits to this country. "There is no link between these agreements," Colonel Giles said. "So you could

## Producer of Cliff Richard musical awarded £400,000

By SIMON TATT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE theatre producer and former pop singer Dave Clark won £400,000 damages yesterday against Rank Theatres, which was found to have run an inefficient box office for his musical *Time*. "I feel glad all over," he said outside the High Court, quoting his most successful song of the 1960s.

The dispute between Rank and Mr Clark's The Right Time Company, however, appeared to be far from over last night. Rank may appeal against yesterday's award and there are two outstanding cases still to be heard: a claim for the restitution of a deposit lodged by Mr Clark with Rank, and an action for slander and breach of contract.

Rank Theatres would not comment on the forthcoming court

hearing, but the company is expected to defend the first on the basis of its claim that the theatre was not returned to its original state after the show's run, a standard requirement in theatre contracts.

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Many of the features created for the show remain in the theatre. The auditorium is still painted black, it has a drop ceiling, and the walls bear traces of scenery. A chandelier that was dismantled for the production was never replaced, although the stage was cleared of scenery.

Mr Clark said that ticket sales were lost because of the inefficiency of the theatre box office. Mr Justice Millett ruled yesterday that the box office had been seriously undermanned and Rank was in breach of its contractual obligation to run the box office efficiently. Mr Clark hailed the judgment as a victory for "the small people in the industry, the new producers" and described the case, which he began in June 1987, as a "David and Goliath" battle.

Rank, however, said: "That he only got 3 per cent of his original claim of £15 million is not a significant victory, but this will send a shiver through West End management in case every time a show flops the producers seek to blame the management."

The Society of West End Theatres, which represents the managers of 49 theatres, but of which Rank is not a member, said that there would be repercussions.

Rupert Rhymes, chief executive, said: "Both producer and management will have to look very carefully at their contractual obligations after this judgement."

The Dominion is in the hands of the receiver, with a number of bids from theatre management groups, said to range from £5 million to £8 million, being considered. The theatre was to have been demolished by a development consortium that bought it from Rank to create a hotel and offices, but part of the consortium went into liquidation.

The Dominion is now managed by Apollo Leisure, which has made a bid for it. Paul Gregg, its managing director, said: "It is a standard obligation that a theatre should be returned to the condition in which the producers found it. Sticking to this sort of condition is vital to the efficiency of the West End circuit."

## MP warns of danger from toys

Nigel Griffiths, shadow consumer minister, yesterday called on the government to protect children from dangerous toys being sold for Christmas after claiming that about 47,000 children are injured each year from them.

At a press conference at Westminster, where he demonstrated a number of defective toys, Mr Griffiths said that parents should be persuaded to buy toys from reputable outlets.

Action is needed to tackle those unscrupulous manufacturers who seek to avoid prosecution by putting a suggested minimum age on a product that is clearly intended for younger children," he said.

### Operation award

Jean Howell, aged 35, of Armley, Leeds, who claimed a mistake in giving an anaesthetic left her awake during a caesarian operation at Leeds general hospital, was awarded £47,500 damages yesterday after Leeds Western health authority admitted liability.

### Anti-hunt action

Sixteen anti-hunt saboteurs and Jason Fazackerley, a Green party prospective parliamentary candidate for Portsmouth North, have started legal action against Sussex police after charges against them were dropped last month for threatening behaviour at a fox hunt in Petworth, West Sussex.

### Factory egg fine

Lincoln magistrates yesterday fined Dayles Foods, of Bilsthorpe, Nottinghamshire, £3,000 plus £5,000 costs after battery hen eggs were labelled as free range at its North Scarle plant near Lincoln.

### Welsh contestant

Rod Richards, former Welsh language broadcaster, will contest Clwyd North West for the Tories at the next general election.

### Nun assaulted

Police hunting two men who kicked and sexually assaulted an Anglican nun, aged 46, in Lime Street, Liverpool, yesterday, have criticised passers-by who ignored her calls for help.

### Last post dates

Tuesday is the last posting date for airmail to Albania, the Azores, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, Cape Verde, Corsica, Gibraltar, Madeira, Malta, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain and the Soviet Union.

### Theatre move

Sir John Tooley, former general director of the Royal Opera House, has been appointed chairman of the Almeida Theatre Company, London.

## Monitors of disarmament prepare their checklists

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire has been famous for the presence of the Red Arrows, acrobatic team. The Red Arrows now have a rival in Jacig, the joint arms control implementation group, which although not as glamorous is about to play an important role in East-West relations.

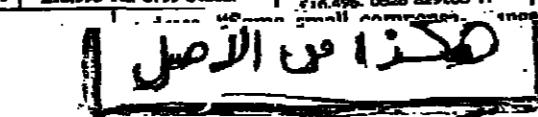
Inside the drab buildings at Scampton, 96 men from the three armed services are preparing to spend cold winters in Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow, examining tanks with tape measures, peering into military hangars and recording the destruction of thousands of Soviet weapon systems.

Jacig, formally set up earlier this year, is Britain's contribution to the verification system agreed by the 22 countries of Nato and the Warsaw Pact which signed the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty in Paris last month. Jacig is both an inspection and escort agency, monitoring Warsaw Pact treaty limited equipment and taking Soviet, Bulgarian and other pact representatives around Britain's military bases at Greenham Common, Berkshire, and Molesworth, Cambridgeshire.

The 96 Russian-speaking inspectors at Jacig are supported by 22 personnel. When the CFE treaty is ratified by the 22 countries, probably in May, the inspectors from Scampton will form teams of nine and be ready to start their work. "They have all undergone recognition courses, so that they know the difference between the T72 tank and a T55," Colonel Giles said.

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# Paper shows how mafia shares out Moscow fiefdoms

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

IN A highly unusual piece of journalism, which quoted police and criminal sources, *Kommersant*, a business weekly, this week revealed how the Moscow mafia has carved up the Soviet capital into underworld fiefdoms.

*Kommersant*, which has established, over the past year, a reputation as a hard-hitting and tough-minded reporter of Moscow's seedy side, has even dared to publish a map of Moscow criminal territories. This is a picture of Soviet life in the 1990s.

Suppose you are an able-bodied young Muscovite in search of a challenging job and not averse to physical danger. You could join the police and do your bit for the "tough and unyielding struggle to uphold the law" proclaimed this week by Boris Pugo, the new interior minister who has been hailed by conservatives as a hardliner. For this you will be paid around 250 roubles a month, or £25 sterling at the official exchange rate for tourists, with little compensation for your family if you are killed.

Alternatively, you could earn a basic 7,000 roubles a month as a member of Moscow's bigger mafia clans with a bonus every time there is a fight and the prospect of eventually being head of a small protection squad on 40,000 roubles a month.

The Russians employ the word mafia rather loosely; opponents of the Communist Party use it rhetorically to describe a political elite which is self-serving and nepoticistic, and may also be downright criminal.

Another sort of mafia is widely blamed for the massive and increasing diversion of funds from the state distribution system, which has

is to be believed, the most fearsome mafiosi in the city are the Chechens, one of dozens of fierce races from the mountain valleys of the north-east Caucasus.

Wrong, says *Kommersant*. The power of the Chechens appears to have waned since they were foolish enough not to attend a kind of mafia summit near the Black Sea in 1988. At this meeting, Moscow was carved up into spheres of influence by the Dolgorudensky and its rivals in the Lyuberetsky group, which has since been partly broken up by police.

*Kommersant* explains that the arrogant Chechens, who threatened to take Moscow over and thus united all the other groups against them, should not be confused with the Ingush, who spring from a neighbouring Caucasus valley and trade with the Italians in fur and leather.

Another southern race, the Assyrians, are said to be in firm control of the drug trade; while Moscow's Riga or Rizhsky market, an apparently free-wheeling bazaar for goods of every kind, is divided between the Lyuberetsky group and the Chechens.

A new clan, the Solntsevo group, is said to enjoy influence over the used-car market at Yuzhni Port and a substantial income from one-armed bandits.

Mrs Lyudmila Ivanova, a policewoman and Moscow city councillor, who has relentlessly denounced the mafia and suffered attacks on her family which she says are all to blame for yesterday's collapse of the world trade negotiations in Brussels.

One clan, the Dolgorudensky group, is said to be doing so well out of the protection business that it has ample funds to reinvest in "legal" sectors like motor repairs and the construction of weekend cottages.

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Wrong, says *Kommersant*. The power of the Chechens appears to have waned since they were foolish enough not to attend a kind of mafia summit near the Black Sea in 1988. At this meeting, Moscow was carved up into spheres of influence by the Dolgorudensky and its rivals in the Lyuberetsky group, which has since been partly broken up by police.

*Kommersant* explains that the arrogant Chechens, who threatened to take Moscow over and thus united all the other groups against them, should not be confused with the Ingush, who spring from a neighbouring Caucasus valley and trade with the Italians in fur and leather.

Another southern race, the Assyrians, are said to be in firm control of the drug trade; while Moscow's Riga or Rizhsky market, an apparently free-wheeling bazaar for goods of every kind, is divided between the Lyuberetsky group and the Chechens.

A new clan, the Solntsevo group, is said to enjoy influence over the used-car market at Yuzhni Port and a substantial income from one-armed bandits.

If the Moscow rumour mill



End of the reel: David Woods, the Gatt spokesman in Brussels, surrounded by journalists and cassette recorders yesterday as he announces the indefinite suspension of the conference because of deadlock over EC farm subsidies

## Four-year road to Gatt failure

From MICHAEL BINYON AND PETER GUILFORD, BRUSSELS

BRINKMANSHIP, unrealistic expectations, political miscalculation and a failure by the world's leaders early on to realise what was at stake are all to blame for yesterday's collapse of the world trade negotiations in Brussels.

Both the Americans and the Europeans underestimated the others' tenacity and stubborn unwillingness to go against the grain of political opinion at home. The European Community was hampered by an inflexible negotiating process that entrusted responsibility to the commission, sheltering European leaders from the direct and personal consequences of

"I know about it perfectly well. The division is necessary in a big city, because otherwise they would kill each other," she said when asked about the *Kommersant* map.

According to the paper, "trespassers" are sometimes shot, and sometimes "fined"; an all-out shooting war was narrowly averted last month.

Mrs Ivanova worries that if Moscow's system of denying residents' permits to most outsiders — a move that most of her fellow liberals favour — the city will be deluged by drug dealers from the Black Sea and central Asia who will snap up desirable pieces of newly privatised real estate.

If the shops are to be sold off, she says, then they should not be disposed of at knock-down prices to their employees, as some reformers have suggested. They should be auctioned to fetch the highest possible amount to bolster the city's coffers and help fund welfare schemes.

After all, Mrs Ivanova is quick to point out, "our Moscow mafia will buy them at any price".

Saturday Review, page 10

failure. The United States misunderstood how far the EC has come together as a single unit, and by trying to destroy the basis of the common agricultural policy, only succeeded in rallying EC leaders behind it.

The seeds of misunderstanding were planted in Punta del Este, the Uruguayan resort where four years ago the members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade launched an ambitious scheme to usher in a new era of trade-based world prosperity.

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Saturday Review, page 10

## Migration pact eludes EC

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

EUROPE'S interior ministers, meeting in Rome yesterday, expressed alarm about the growing pressure of immigration into EC countries. However, they failed to reach firm agreement on how this influx from Eastern Europe and the Third World should be controlled at Europe's external frontiers and the borders between EC nations after 1992.

"Europe is becoming an economic magnet," said Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. "There is growing concern over the migratory pressure which is fast building up all around Europe. Migration on this scale has never

been experienced in recent European history."

The EC ministers, and observers from non-EC countries, were in Rome for one of the "Trevi group" series of meetings. The main themes of discussion were co-operation in fighting terrorism, the recycling of profits from crime, and the search for a common EC policy on immigration. The latter dominated yesterday's talks.

The crucial point was whether the principle of free movement within the community should apply only to EC nationals or also to citizens of other countries. Most

ministers were in favour of a completely open policy. The British position was more cautious. Mr Baker said Britain was in favour of maintaining immigration controls for non-EC citizens entering Britain from Europe.

Vincenzo Scotti, the Italian interior minister and president of the meeting, said it would not be possible to sign a European convention on immigration this year.

Turning to crime and terrorism, the ministers agreed to keep working towards creating a European intelligence unit while increasing co-operation between police forces.

## Refugee status for boat people

Hong Kong — A group of 111 Vietnamese boat people, who claimed they had been detained illegally, won refugee status here. The colony's government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees announced that they had been declared eligible for resettlement (Paul Mooney writes).

The decision came as a surprise, since the government had argued that the people, fleeing communist rule in their country, had no right to land in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong authorities had hinted that they would probably be sent back to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese, who had been detained for 18 months, attracted international attention last month when they were arrested hours after a High Court judge had set them free on the ground that they had been detained illegally.

### Rahman buried

Kuala Lumpur — Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first prime minister of Malaysia, who died on Thursday night aged 87, was buried with the honours of a ruler at the royal burial ground in his home state of Kedah.

### Caretaker ruler

Sofia — President Zhelyov of Bulgaria appointed Dimitar Popov, a lawyer aged 63, with no party affiliation, to head a caretaker government until new elections can be held. The Socialist government resigned last week in the face of strikes and street protests. (Reuter)

### 'Radioactive' sea

Wellington — Greenpeace, the environmental group, said it had found traces of radioactive caesium and cobalt 12 miles from the French nuclear test site on Mururoa atoll in the south Pacific, so contesting claims by France that its underground weapons programme is safe. (Reuter)

### Burnt to death

Ayodhya — Hindu militants claimed that an Indian who was burnt to death here killed himself in protest over a disputed shrine but others said that was a Muslim victim of Hindu violence. (Reuter)

### Aid for Liberia

Geneva — An aircraft chartered by the United Nations left Switzerland with 20 tonnes of food and medicine for Liberia, where aid workers said that hungry orphans were wandering through the ruins left by civil war. (Reuter)

### Piggyback ride

Sydney — The Soviet space shuttle, Buran, will make its first trip abroad next year on the back of the world's largest aircraft, the Antonov 225, in a visit to Australia and New Zealand. Other space equipment will also be displayed during the four-week goodwill trip. (Reuter)

## ANC may loosen sanctions

From GAVIN BELL  
IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress, while publicly insisting that sanctions should be maintained against South Africa, is discreetly considering proposals for gradually easing the boycott next year.

A confidential ANC discussion document, calling for a comprehensive policy review, recommends that trade, sports and cultural embargoes should be relaxed, and tied only to racial discrimination in specific companies and organizations. It suggests that the lifting of oil, arms, and financial sanctions should be linked to the establishment of an interim government.

The proposal is believed to have been drafted by Thabo Mbeki, the organization's foreign affairs chief, and moderate members of his department who are attending the United Nations debate on the issue in New York. ANC sources say that the report has been endorsed by senior officials, and will be submitted at a national consultative conference in Johannesburg next week.

With a majority of European countries believing that the time has come to lift sanctions, the document concedes that the effect of diplomatic and trade restrictions has been reduced. It argues that adverse reaction to any regression in government reforms would ensure their reimposition. Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, in his absence, has been so conspicuous as to his absence, a result of Bonn refusing to grant him amnesty in the days leading up to unity. A warrant

## Tyminski loses 'secrets' gambit

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

STANISLAW Tyminski had a few hours left before the end of the presidential election campaign. What to do? He decided to hold a press conference. He arrived 90 minutes late, but the wait would be worth it, said his staff.

"Stan will blow Walesa out of the water with his documents," said a man with a slim moustache. He seemed vaguely familiar from the days of martial law. The enigmatic businessman had run out of words. The election is on Sunday. The closer one comes to the ballot box, the lighter the words seem to weigh.

But the candidate had his black briefcase which, he has hinted for a fortnight or more, contains the full, compromising truth about the front-runner for the presidency, Lech Walesa. It would have to

be a revelation of almost biblical proportions to bridge the gap — Mr Walesa 73 per cent, Mr Tyminski 16 per cent, according to the last poll — but Mr Tyminski's staff (who sometimes forget themselves and address each other as "captain") have experience in digging up grubby material.

The candidate ignored the pleas of the pack. For "ethical reasons", said Mr Tyminski, the briefcase had to stay closed. "Lie," shouted a reporter. It was very hot in the candidate's campaign headquarters, a small room in the Palace of Culture.

"Show us," yelled another. "Open the case." An American journalist grabbed the briefcase, a combination-lock metal and plastic club-class item.

"Let go, you thief!" said the

Gazeta, the German foreign minister. His boasts that he would "put all the cards on the table" if he had before a Western court and then disappeared to "a wooden hut in Siberia" have been replaced by a conciliatory tone towards the federal authorities he once sought to undermine.

"I would like to live in Germany," he told Pravda. "Now, with the signing of the Charter of Paris and the end of this period in European history, my activities and those of my intelligence colleagues should not be subject to the criminal code of Germany."

Her Wolf, who was responsible for the infiltration of Willy Brandt's chancellery office, told Pravda he no longer intended to settle in the Soviet Union.

## New face of the master spy

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

THROUGHOUT his 30 years at the head of East Germany's espionage service, Markus Wolf was known as the Man Without a Face. He evaded the West German secret service by operating from deep inside the ministry of state security and rarely travelled abroad except to Moscow. The first snatched picture of him in the 1970s earned in photographs a fortune.

Now his face is everywhere as, from exile, he wages a publicity campaign for his latest book, *Markus Wolf: I'm No Spy*. Nobody knows quite where he is hiding in Eastern Europe. Herr Wolf has never been so conspicuous as in his absence, a result of Bonn refusing to grant him amnesty in the days leading up to unity. A warrant

for his arrest for "treason in the most serious instance" still stands. The news magazines Stern and Der Spiegel fought for his memoirs. One women's magazine has even printed his favourite recipes for Russian food.

He was advised to leave Germany by his lawyer, Friedrich Wolff, who is also defending Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, on the grounds that he could not be assured of a fair trial while feelings against the Stasi, the secret police, were high.

This week, however, he pleaded to be allowed to go home. He has sent his message through channels ranging from Pravda to letters to President von Weizsaeck of Germany and Hans-Dietrich

Genscher, the German foreign minister. His boasts that he would "put all the cards on the table"

if he had before a Western court and then disappeared to "a wooden hut in Siberia" have been replaced by a conciliatory tone towards the federal authorities he once sought to undermine.

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# Democrats fear Bush will steal Gulf glory

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, WASHINGTON

ACCORDING to President Saddam Hussein, the Democratic majority in Congress can take one-third of the credit for the promised release of the foreign hostages in Iraq. But for some Democrats, to be lumped alongside the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Yemen and the faceless men of the European parliament is a mixed blessing.

Richard Solarz, the influential New York representative, told a party meeting after the announcement that if the party denies support for a presidential policy which successfully defeats President Saddam, the electorate will keep it out of the White House "forever". He won some considerable, if subdued, support for this view among colleagues who feel that they have buried the memory of President Carter and do not wish the ghost of "peace-without-strength" to return.

Representative Vic Fazio of California, the new chairman of the Democratic campaign committee, said that if Iraq left Kuwait as a result of US actions, the Democrats may be seen yet again as the party which lacked the spine to support American leadership with military might.

Many Democrats are nervous about the influence of Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, the party's senior military figure, who has broken with his characteristic caution to lead the argument on Capitol Hill against the acceleration in President Bush's military build-up. Senator Nunn, himself, is well-placed, they say. His constitutional responsibility as chairman of the armed services committee and his own strong record of supporting the US military through the Cold War gives him personal protection against the "peace-without-strength" charge. The party as a whole is

more vulnerable and, although Senator Nunn is said to be planning a run for the White House, he is only one of many potential candidates for whom the Gulf conflict will be a critical factor.

When Democratic legislators gather for the 102nd Congress next month, they will be able to mount the third-largest opposition to a sitting president in the history of the United States. The Washington newspapers are full of stories about Republican division and decline. Republicans in the House of Representatives are deeply at odds with the White House over the future direction of domestic policy.

The lack of numbers rules out any hope of the type of coalition with right-wing Democrats which gave them hope and power in the early Reagan days. Nor are right-wing Democrats converting into Republicans any more.

The Democrats have their opponents on the congressional ropes. But the party still sees the greatest prize as ousting President Bush. Its leaders, therefore, want to watch a little longer before deciding which is the winning way around the Gulf. For the coming weeks they wish to wound but not strike.

Robert Dole of Kansas, the Senate Republican leader, makes almost daily taunts that Congress should make its position clear, this week calling President Saddam's action in freeing the hostages a vindication of the president's courageous policy.

The call for Congress to be recalled was made also by Richard Lugar of Indiana, a senior Republican senator. But among Democrats the most senior advocate for a recall is Senator Edward Kennedy, whose hopes for higher office lie wholly in the past.



Together again: Donna Cole, of Odessa, Texas, reunited with her husband John in Baghdad. Mrs Cole travelled with a group of Americans to Iraq in the hope of securing the release of their relatives

## No desert Shields but still Hope

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

ONLY a couple of months ago, the flagging spirits of US troops in the Gulf were lifted by the prospect of a Christmas visit from Brooke Shields. No more. Saudi Arabia, which requires its women to appear in public covered from head to toe, has surprised the organizers of the American actress' proposed tour by asking them to withdraw her visa application.

A spokeswoman for the USO, a charity which puts together shows for American forces abroad, said that Ms Shields' visit has been postponed and "we really don't

understand why". Those familiar with the former model's career suspect it may have something to do with her sexy image. As a child, she launched her career amid controversy with the lead role in *Pretty Baby*, a film about a child prostitute. Later, she stirred a small storm when she posed semi-naked (but with her back to the camera) in an advertisement for Calvin Klein jeans with the slogan: "Nothing comes between me and my Calvins."

These days, the Princeton graduate still makes headlines in gossip magazines for her

alcohol and female troops are required to cover their arms when working. The kingdom, which contains the holiest cities of Islam, has also infuriated homesick forces by outlawing the reading of Bibles in public and forbidding US armed services chaplains from displaying crosses on their uniforms.

The embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington had no immediate comment yesterday. Organisers had suspected problems with the visa application but were baffled at the Saudi request since Ms Shields, like other visitors to the Gulf in past weeks, was expected to dress in official Army fatigues, a hat and sunglasses for her appearance before the troops.

News of the Saudi government's opposition to the actress' tour is likely to fuel growing resentment among the US public about why young American lives should be at risk in order to protect a country that does not share the US values of freedom and democracy.

Those deployed in Operation Desert Shield are denied

to be content with an appearance by Bob Hope, who is 87.

## UK fugitives await all-clear from embassy

By RAY CLANCY

HUNDREDS of British hostages hiding in Kuwait are unlikely to come out until they receive confirmation from embassy officials that they can return home, some of their wives predicted yesterday.

As the families of hostages continued to celebrate the possible homecoming of their loved ones in time for Christmas, one wife revealed the frightening conditions that the men in Kuwait are still facing. Lesley Bell of Petersfield, Hampshire, has smuggled letters from her husband, Chris, in which he described how he had to crawl inside a heating duct when armed Iraqi soldiers searched the apartment where he was hiding.

"This is all much worse for the families of those men who are in hiding. We have not received any telephone calls. The men are prisoners, relying on outside help from resistance workers for food and constantly in fear of being discovered," she said as her two daughters excitedly drew pictures of a plane arriving at Heathrow with their father coming down the steps.

The girls, Victoria, aged eight, and Gemma, aged five, wrote to Santa Claus asking for their father and the family cats — left behind in Kuwait — for Christmas presents. "Daddy is coming home. I want to write a book about all this, all I can remember about Kuwait," said Victoria.

But Mrs Bell, aged 37, who worked as a sales supervisor for a freight company in Kuwait, talks with an edge of caution. Several times her husband, a computer sales executive whom she left in Kuwait on September 3, has hidden in fear of his life when soldiers searched all the apartments where foreigners used to stay. In his last letter, dated November 18, he described how he did not have time to reach the usual heating duct and barricaded himself in a room.

Of the raids he wrote: "On the 13th (November) the building was raided by seven plainclothes security police, all armed with AK47s and looking as if they meant business. We didn't have time to make it to the roof so we hid in one of the maid's abandoned rooms for three hours."

Mr Bell said he had been almost ill with fear when they tried the door of the room but he and his companion had managed to prop it shut.

Mrs Bell predicted that it could take many weeks for all the hostages to be freed. "When we came out we had to travel to Baghdad, wait for visas and wait again to go to the airport. I would appeal to the Iraqis to do away with the

red tape and just let these people out."

Another woman, whose husband is in hiding, agreed that they would be reluctant to go out onto the streets until they felt safe. "These men are in a terrible state. My husband and many others have been going without sufficient food; they have been living like scared animals," said Elaine of Chatham, Kent, who did not want to give her full name because she feared retributions against her husband.

Relatives who gathered at the offices of the Gulf Support Group in Kingsway, central London, heard that the Iraqi parliament had confirmed the hostages were to be freed when the news came over on the agency primer. "We're delighted. Getting confirmation has made all the difference. It makes everything that has been worked for, not just by us but by everyone else over the past four months, all worthwhile," said Joanna Copley, a founder of the group.

Sue Dorrington, whose husband David is being held in Baghdad, said she had a romantic telephone call from him on Thursday, not long after he had heard the news. "He told me that he loved me and said he wanted to be home in time for our son, Jan's, tenth birthday next Tuesday."

## Activists to set up peace camp

BAGHDAD — Iraq has authorised Western peace activists to set up an "international peace camp" on its border with Saudi Arabia to prevent war. About 100 volunteers would come to Iraq to join the camp on December 17 and more would join later. The "Gulf peace team", a seven-member advance party, said in a statement.

A team member, Pat Arrowsmith of Britain, said that Iraqi officials had told them they would be allowed to visit the border area in two or three days to find and prepare a site. The team has also applied to Saudi authorities for permission to set up a camp on the border in Saudi Arabia. (Reuters)

## Easy win

CAIRO — With all but a handful of results officially declared, the ruling National Democratic Party in Egypt is certain of an overwhelming majority in the country's next parliament. Results so far showed the party had won 348 of 454 seats. (Reuters)

## More troops

CAIRO — Egypt is sending 7,000 more troops to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates this month, bringing the total to almost 30,000 men. Defence ministry sources said the men would be drawn from the armoured corps. In an interview with *The New York Times* last month, President Mubarak said 400 additional tanks also will be sent. (AP)

## Death crash

PARIS — A French air force pilot with the multinational Gulf force died when his Mirage F1 CR reconnaissance jet crashed during a low-altitude training flight in southern Saudi Arabia. He was the second French serviceman killed in Saudi Arabia. (Reuters)

## Clear conscience

NICOSIA — Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Iran's leading judge, responding to Amnesty International reports of human rights abuses, defended capital punishment and said there were no prisoners of conscience in Iran. (Reuters)

## Major insistent Saddam must 'disgorge' Kuwait

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major firmly ruled out any compromise with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday and insisted that he must leave Kuwait and make reparations for what he had done.

Urging that the foreign hostages be released without let, hindrance or delay, the prime minister said that the world was not going to stand by and watch Kuwait invaded and dismantled in the way it was by Baghdad's forces.

Using tougher language on the Gulf issue than he has employed at any time since he moved to 10 Downing Street, Mr Major declared that the whole world believed President Saddam should "disgorge" Kuwait, release the hostages and make reparations for what he has done".

He continued: "There can be no compromise on that

point, and the security council resolutions have made that absolutely clear."

In an interview with BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, he was asked whether the news of the hostages' release would diminish the determination of the international alliance to go to war if necessary. He said: "Nobody wants to go to war if it is avoidable, but you have to realise what has happened there."

"A country has invaded another country; it has imposed a legitimate government and it is in effect dismantling that country day by day. That is not tolerable for the international community."

Mr Major was deliberately cautious over President Saddam's pledge on the hostages. Talking of reports that they would be home by Christ-

mas he said: "I very much hope for their sake and the sake of their families that that turns out to be true. It should be true; they should never have been hostages in the first place, and I hope they will now be released without let, without hindrance and without delay."

Although the release of the hostages was welcome, Iraq must still comply with UN Security Council resolutions demanding its withdrawal from Kuwait.

"I don't think the world is going to stand by and watch Kuwait be invaded and dismantled in the way it is. It cannot do so," Mr Major said.

The prime minister added: "I do not think we should raise people's expectations until we have those hostages back where they belong with their families."

## War heritage tempers Beirut joy

By ALL JABER IN BEIRUT

THREE days after Lebanese troops were deployed in Beirut and opened roads that had been out of bounds for a decade and half, the euphoria of peace seemed to have subsided as the war's ugly offspring started to become apparent.

For the first time in eight years, residents and reporters were allowed into the battlefield after fighters abandoned their ditches, according to a government plan to free the capital of all militiamen and weapons.

Although familiar with destruction, many Lebanese who went to check on their homes and shops in a frontline district in central Beirut were shocked by the extent of devastation. Huge estates once worth millions of pounds have become

mature promise of peace brought tragedy. Mohammad Salameh, aged 55, was killed by a landmine when he went to check on his house on the Mar Mikhael front line, south of Beirut.

His neighbours said he was so eager to return home, after living for eight years in a shack in the capital's slums, that he ignored warnings by soldiers clearing the area of the militias' traces. Army officers advise strollers to walk in the middle of the road and avoid side-alleys. "Those pieces are killers," said one soldier. "They are easy to hide. We collected about 60 of them in a small area of four square metres."

A group of middle-aged men and women who remembered Beirut during

its golden days flocked here for a breath of nostalgia. They pointed with disappointment to a wrecked building that used to be the Grand Theatre. It stood there like an old haunted house, stained by soot from two sides, the one facing east Beirut and the other facing the western side, as if both wanted its destruction.

Developers say it will take more than £10 billion and 10 years to rebuild Beirut and its centre.

"This is unthinkable right now with a bankrupt government that struggles to secure enough funds for water and electricity," Ramzi Zreik, the head of a British relief organization, said. "Maybe Beirut is doomed to remain a city of ruins and devastation," he added.

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# How Saddam has been left looking for strings to pull

FROM the outset, the Gulf crisis has been fraught with imponderables and unanswered questions which can be adhered to one certainty throughout that President Saddam Hussein should not be allowed to keep Kuwait.

This is not simply because the United States and its allies have invested so much prestige in reversing his aggression; nor just because the industrialised world is not prepared to allow such an ambitious dictator to dominate a region which contains 40 per cent of the world's oil reserves; nor only because this is the first test of the post-Cold War era of superpower co-operation. All have been factors in the equation. But it was his annexation of Kuwait which united most of the world against him.

His original plan was to invade, establish a puppet government by "popular demand", withdraw and graciously accept from the puppets what he really wanted — two offshore islands,

the whole of the south Rumaila oilfield, and control over Kuwait's oil and financial policies. If this had happened, there would have been an international outcry but nothing like the present situation. The Arab League would have been anxious to patch things up, and Western powers, as well as Moscow, would have been reluctant to break the old habit of doing business with Iraq.

However, he found no Kuwaiti puppets and was obliged to annex a state the independence of which Iraq has accepted for 27 years. This was his decisive miscalculation. For the first time in 45 years, one United Nations member state had forcibly annexed another, a precedent which not one of the 160 members was prepared to countenance. Hence the question has been how and when he will have to disgorge, not whether. Will it be a result of sanctions, will he do a sudden volte-face, or will force have to be used? For the past four months, President

Saddam Hussein's big miscalculation was to bank on finding Kuwaiti puppets to do his bidding.

Anthony Parsons looks at the Iraqi leader's options

Saddam's strategy has been to play for time in the hope that the international coalition against him will fragment and sanctions crumble.

He has played many cards in an attempt to blur the origin of the conflict, and to re-focus regional attention on the Palestine problem, on American "imperialism", and to present Iraq as a potential victim rather than aggressor. He has had only limited success in directing Arab public opinion from governments and virtually none in weakening Western and Soviet resolve by manipulating the hostage issue. The coalition has held firm. The Arab governments with forces in the field have not wavered. The UN security council has adopted 12 resolu-

tions condemning and cumulatively rejecting his acts, tightening sanctions, and finally authorising the use of force to implement its demands. Amazingly to anyone who has lived through decades of Cold War competition, America and the Soviet Union have co-operated throughout. Iraq cannot have expected to be deserted by its closest ally of more than 30 years.

Now the smoke is clearing and the landscape is emerging in hard outline. The reinforcement of the multinational force in Saudi Arabia has shifted the emphasis from defence of the kingdom — the original objective — to an offensive capability sufficient to liberate Kuwait by force. International authority to do so at any time after

January 15 has been granted by Resolution 678 of November 29. It is generally accepted that sanctions alone will take a year or more to work, and that many factors are against so long a delay, namely the continuing ransacking, rape and repopulation of Kuwait, the financial and morale costs of maintaining 500,000 men and women under arms in Saudi Arabia, fear for the solidarity of the coalition, and impatience to bring the conflict to a speedy conclusion. Some of these reasons are more valid than others, but are all part of an equation President Saddam must take into account.

No doubt President Bush will be hammering these points home to Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, as James Baker, the American secretary of state, will be doing to President Saddam in Baghdad. President Saddam has changed course before, and he could do so again.

Sir Anthony Parsons is a former British ambassador to Iran and to the United Nations.

## Arab moves aim to heal split and prevent war

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

INTER-Arab diplomacy, designed to promote a negotiated settlement to the Gulf confrontation, is due to intensify after President Saddam Hussein's surprise move to sanction the release of all foreign hostages.

Senior diplomats in the region said yesterday that moves at the United Nations towards action, no matter how vague, on the Palestinian issue, could help soften the bitter differences between the pro and anti-Iraqi camps which have split the Arab League since its summit in Cairo on August 10.

Yemen, which holds the chair of the UN Security Council this month, has announced it will attempt to push for another full summit. "The summit would aim at preventing a destructive war in the region which will reach every corner of the Arab homeland and will harm all the Arab people," said Ali Salem al-Beedh, the Yemeni vice-president.

Arab diplomatic sources said that attempts were also being made to try to arrange a mini-summit involving King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Saddam, with Algeria as the possible host. Efforts late last month by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to organise such a meeting collapsed after a stern rebuff from Riyadh.

Ministers from Iraq and Kuwait are due to attend a meeting of the ten-member Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, which opens in Cairo today. Although Egyptian and Iraqi officials have said that the Gulf confrontation will not be raised at the meeting, Western observers believe that delegates may take the opportunity for some behind-the-scenes diplomacy.

Nabil Nejm al-Takriti, Baghdad's ambassador to Egypt, has said that Iraq will attend the meeting, which he described as "routine". Abdel Hadi Mohammad Kandil, the Egyptian oil minister, said that any attempt by Iraq to block Kuwaiti participation would fail.

The meeting follows dip-

lomatic speculation that one formula being floated for a Gulf compromise involves an Iraqi withdrawal from all parts of occupied Kuwait, except for the contested Rumaila oil field. In exchange, the Iraqis would be given a pledge of non-aggression from the allies and the prospect of discussions about leasing two Kuwaiti islands which would give it greater access to the Gulf.

"If the meeting proceeds smoothly, it will indicate that the Iraqis and Kuwaitis are still able to work together in an Arab forum," a European envoy said. "There could be more diplomatic significance to this session than immediately meets the eye."

Earlier, Iraq had requested for the Cacp meeting to be held in Europe to precede the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries gathering in Vienna on December 12. Mr Kandil said that this demand had been rejected by the other members.

Opec includes seven Arab members — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Libya, Algeria, Iraq and Kuwait — plus three smaller Arab producers, Egypt, Syria and Bahrain. Unlike Opec, it does not discuss price and production policies, but concentrates on promoting inter-Arab co-operation. The agenda for today's meeting focused on the organisation's work plan and budget for 1991.

Since August 6, Iraq has been unable to export any oil as a result of the UN trade embargo. The shortfall on the world market of around 4 million barrels of crude oil a day has been largely replaced by increased production from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Venezuela.

Although Saudi Arabia has not wavered in its resolve stand against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, there have been hints in recent weeks that senior Saudi government figures are concerned about the regional repercussions of an all-out war which could eliminate Iraq's military potential as a regional bulwark against Israel and Iran.

The meeting follows dip-



Show of hands: members of an Italian delegation sitting at the front of the 250-strong Iraqi National Assembly yesterday as it decided overwhelmingly to back President Saddam Hussein's decision to free all foreign hostages. There were 15 votes against

## Israel fears summit will dictate terms

By RICHARD OWEN

TO THE outside world, the fierce Israeli opposition to the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East often appears baffling. What could be more reasonable than a conference involving "all parties to the dispute" and the great powers, perhaps the United Nations as well, given the dismal failure of the parties themselves to resolve the Palestinian question in the 23 years since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza as the fruits of the 1967 war?

But at Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, explained this week in London and will repeat in Washington, Israel's visceral antagonism to the idea of a peace conference in the first place from its fear that "foreign bodies" will impose a solution not to Israel's liking.

Instead, Israel wants "direct negotiations" with the Arab states and also with "acceptable" Palestinian figures in the occupied territories, and not Palestinians from the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Israel wants no part in "linkage" between Kuwait and Palestine, and argues that a peace conference presented as part of a solution to the Gulf conflict would hand President Saddam Hussein such linkage on a plate. A

peace conference is seen in Jerusalem as a device for forcing Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories before it has negotiated the "right terms", including security guarantees.

A second Israeli objection is that the Western concept of "parties to the dispute" includes the PLO, which Israel regards as a terrorist organisation rather than "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people". Israel was delighted when America broke off its 18-month dialogue with the PLO last May.

But Israeli leaders still fear that the Western powers and the Soviet Union take the PLO's profession of moderation at face value, and will want the organization included in any settlement.

Washington's ambivalence over proposals at the UN for an international conference have therefore caused alarm in Israel. America's attitude is attributed in part to its new relationship with the Soviet Union, which has long favoured a Middle East conference, as has the European Community.

Israel wants no part in linkage between Kuwait and Palestine, and argues that a peace conference presented as part of a solution to the Gulf conflict would hand President Saddam Hussein such linkage on a plate. A

patient at Israeli behaviour over the settling of Soviet immigrants in Arab east Jerusalem.

What Israel might accept, diplomats suggest, is a reverting to the kind of tripartite meeting on the Palestinian question between Israel, Egypt and America, which was floated by Washington earlier

this year. But what Israel cannot stomach is any suggestion of a conference under the auspices of the UN, which in the Israeli view has an in-built bias against the Jewish state.

Unless America is prepared to bring overwhelming pressure to bear, Israel seems certain to continue to take the view that it can only rely on itself for its security.

If, on the other hand, the US, Britain, Europe and the Soviet Union unite in supporting a peace conference, Israel will have to decide whether to defy such pressure and face isolation, or swallow its many reservations and begin to lay down conditions for Israeli participation.

## Build-up in desert continues unabated

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BOTH sides in the Gulf confrontation continued to reinforce their armies yesterday, despite new hopes of a peaceful settlement after President Saddam Hussein's decision to free all foreign hostages.

American M1A1 tanks, sent to Saudi Arabia because of their extra protection against chemical and biological attack, have been arriving in large batches by ship from Germany. Up to 1,000 of the latest tanks are expected before mid-January.

In Brussels, Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, told Nato counterparts he would like alliance members to send extra troops "the sooner the better", though conceding that the Iraqis could be forced out of Kuwait without them. President Saddam has sent another 30,000 troops to Kuwait and southern Iraq to reinforce the 470,000 already in there, and 300 more tanks.

Mr Cheney's appeal did not produce immediate results. Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, said after a two-day meeting of defence ministers that he was satisfied with the solidarity being displayed by the alliance but added: "I can only encourage our member nations where possible to increase their contributions."

Letters, page 11

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The Royal Marsden Hospital urgently needs your help. To donate, please ring 071 376 5173.

THE ROYAL  
MARSDEN  
CANCER  
APPEAL



## Revived intifada breeds despair

From RICHARD OWEN IN JABALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

THE Palestinian question is high on the agenda again as the intifada enters its fourth year this weekend. For the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir, the Americans can turn towards favouring a Middle East peace conference because of the Gulf conflict confirms Israel's nightmare: that President Saddam Hussein's attempt to link the Kuwaiti and Palestine issues will eventually succeed.

But for Palestinians in the squalid and teeming refugee camps of Gaza, this is precisely what makes President Saddam the hero of the hour. Their energies and hopes refuelled, many young Palestinians are stepping up the violence in an effort to make Israeli troops leave the occupied territories despite Mr Shamir's vow never to make concessions under duress.

"Even if there is a war and Saddam Hussein is defeated, we will still hail him as the man who put us back into the revolt," said Mahmoud. He is a young Palestinian who, like the kind who pop up from nowhere to take the place of arrested or deported activists, his anti-Israeli anger stoked by three years of searches and humiliation at the hands of Israeli troops. To some extent, Mahmoud and others like him have modified their support for President Saddam. Palestinians are aware that their

support for him as a strong Arab leader is in danger of being confused with support for him as a brutal dictator.

But the Iraqi leader's portrait is still everywhere. His actions, which turned the Middle East upside down, have combined with the riots on Temple Mount on October 8, in which 18 Arabs died, to

galvanise an uprising which was showing signs of flagging. The mood on both sides of the conflict is still one of frustration and despair. If there is to be a solution, it is likely to come only after even more violent conflict. Three years after the revolt began with riots at Jabaliya, Palestinians still face a determined Israeli response. According to the United Nations, which ad-

ministers the camps, 50,000 Arabs have been wounded in Gaza alone over the past three years, 18,000 of them under the age of 15.

Since then, 747 Palestinians have died (the Israeli army puts the figure at 623). Fifty-four Israelis have died, 23 in the occupied territories and 31 in Israel. Three hundred and eleven Arabs have been murdered by fellow Arabs as alleged collaborators. Three hundred and seventy-seven Palestinian homes have been demolished as punishment for "terrorist offences" and about 14,000 Palestinians remain in

detention.

What the statistics do not describe is the way the revolt has fundamentally changed Arab-Jewish relations. At Jabaliya, where chickens and goats root around in the rotting rubbish which litters the dusty streets, a high wire fence has gone up between the main mosque in the centre of the camp and the Israeli army post opposite. Children from the camp, which contains 60,000 people, still defy tear gas and the fence to lob stones at troops. But the fence symbolises the barriers between Jews and Arabs as the concept of "co-existence" between the two communities crumbles.

In Israel, both left and right have concluded that Arabs and Jews can no longer live

# A joyful Book of Numbers

Clifford Longley

The Church of England treats its annual membership statistics as householders treat letters from the bank manager. They usually contain bad news. There were surprised smiles on Thursday, therefore, when the 1988 church statistics revealed if not wealth unimaginable then at least a small drop in the overraft.

In the first real increase since church leaders stopped hoping for one 20 years ago, the "usual Sunday attendance" figure, which is generally taken to indicate the size of the church's core membership, was up 4,000 over the 1987 figure at 1,165,000. The number aged 16 and over in that figure rose by 13,000, offset by a 9,000 fall among the under-16s.

For several years measurements of church membership have been static after a long period of steady decline, and the question everybody was asking was whether, when the plateau ended, the graph would turn up or down. The sociological evidence suggests that the primary factors influencing church attendance are remote from the church's control.

Plotted on a long time-scale, for instance since the start of the century, Easter communicant numbers in the Church of England and the Church of Scotland show a very striking consistency. Not only do the larger hills and troughs occur in both graphs over the same period, but so do many of the short-term wobbles. Roman Catholic church attendance since the turn of the century is too much affected by the ebb and flow of Irish immigration to be useful, but other measures of Catholic activity, such as adult conversions, also show a correlation with these trends in other denominations.

Whatever the factors are, they clearly do not have much to do with the policies or beliefs of a particular denomination. Converting to Catholicism and attending Church of Scotland worship at Easter are, in religious terms, unrelated or even opposing activities. It is as if there is in the community at large a level of disposition towards or against religious belief and practice, un-specific to denomination, which fluctuates invisibly. If the recovery in Anglican figures marks the start of such a trend, therefore, a similar recovery should be noticed soon by the other churches. If not, it is unlikely that Anglicans will buck the trend for long.

Increases and decreases in church membership represent movements between a core group, attenders, and an outer concentric circle, friends and relations of attenders. Almost all those who become regular church attenders have some previous family or cultural attachment to their church; it was in their social background. And those who stop going to church move not into the general unchurched population

but into that outer circle, and remain potential church members for the future. Total apostasy is an uncommon or out-of-the-blue conversion.

Each denomination has, surrounded its core, such a penumbra of lapsed members or members-in-waiting. This outer circle consists of those who, through social and family connections, are still in touch with that church at one remove. But though it is those connections which may one day chart the route into active membership, the forces impelling people in that direction appear to come from elsewhere. Otherwise denominations would contract and expand independently of one another instead of in step.

The net movement into or out of a denomination's active core – the 4,000 Anglican increase in 1988, for instance – is the balance between much larger movements in both directions at any one time. Nobody knows how many Anglicans stopped going to church in 1988, only that slightly more of them started.

The inward flux, from the outer circle to the core, must be influenced by factors common to all denominations. The only thing they have in common is that they are surrounded by a secular culture. So there must be some influence arising from within that culture which is felt by all those in one of these church outer circles. By definition secular cultures are unfriendly to religion; they do not deliberately promote it. It must be the secular culture itself that repels such people.

What influences the outward flow must again be independent of the state of health of any one denomination, or the effect would not be common to all. In such cases the secular culture must be drawing such people towards itself because it seems good.

This explanation has large implications for the churches' strategy in the forthcoming "decade of evangelisation" which starts next month. It identifies the battlefield as being "out there", in secular society, and the key issue, the adequacy of a secular culture for the satisfaction of emotional and spiritual needs.

It also suggests that the most effective recruitment strategy for the churches would be to attack secularism as shallow and unattractive, in order to encourage people to feel unsatisfied by it.

And the real target for such an evangelistic strategy would be those sub-groups in secular society that have some existing link with a church, however tenuous. For if they can be made discontented with the secular terrain they inhabit, they will move towards the church to which they are linked, of their own accord. And the Anglican figures, if they mean anything, may signal that secularism is beginning to lose its grip.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

I have not, as I write, seen the *Saturday Review* that will accompany this paper. But if it's anything like previous editions, it will be a splendid read, containing numerous features that it would be a crime to miss. I resent this. Saturday is precious, does not last long, and ought to be careful. It is not a day for guilt, not a day to labour under a sense of imperatives unfulfilled. So to place before me, for the premium of five pence extra, more good writing than I have the least chance of finishing, and thus the certain prospect of ending my day in failure – going to bed ashamed that into the bin go pictures and prose which is a bookshop which would fetch a hundred times as much – can only be cruel.

Nor would there be any point in saving it for Sunday. With Sunday comes *The Sunday Times*, in all its multi-sectioned glory, bringing much important analysis of the problems facing the new prime minister, and many gripping accounts of the last days of the old one. And there will be that marvellous books section, with sparkling reviews of all the books I shall not have time to read... No; if there is, through sheer diligence, a faint chance of breaking the back of the *Saturday Review* before midnight on Saturday, there is none whatsoever of making so much as a dent in *The Sunday Times* before Monday – and Monday's papers.

And what of my *Spectator*, delivered on Friday? And my weekend *Economist*...?

With a thud, the latest issue of *Scientific American* hits the doormat in its polythene wrapper, packed with news of the most thought-provoking kind. My heart sinks.

Because it's not that I don't enjoy reading. I wish I didn't. I wish the perusal of fine writing and the absorbing of important news were a tiresome chore: worthy, maybe, but dull. If that were so then the choice would be the age-old choice of work versus play, duty versus pleasure. We all strike that balance somewhere; we know we must and we know how to. When pleasure is sin, and virtue pain, the dilemma is as familiar as the solution: a bit of both, thanks but neither in excess.

No, that's not the problem.

Reading the *Saturday Review* would be a sinless pleasure. It doesn't cost anything, it isn't difficult, no balance has to be struck... it's just...

...that life is short. Yet the minds into which today's publishing gains me entrance are better than mine, their holiday snaps are more professional than mine, their experiences wider than mine, they have done more interesting things than I, and they write about it so damnably well. Why don't I just throw in the towel, buy a year's subscription to the better publications, a roomful of tinned soup and a hundred crates of lager?

I caught myself last Sunday, the entire *Sunday Times* stacked before me, and a pencil in my hand, doing a remarkably stupid thing. I was flicking through each section, speed-reading the "contents", and making a mark against what I thought I ought to come back to.

That's the stupid thing. The remarkably stupid thing was this: under my breath I was muttering "good" each time I spotted an article I did not want to read. Separating the wheat from the chaff, it was the chaff I was unconsciously hoping to find: hoping, because then I would not feel guilty about discarding it. The pleasure in that discovery reminds me of one's feeling on determining that, with the person on whom one has had a tiresome crush, there is simply no chance at all. It's such a relief.

The logical conclusion of this approach would be to react with pleasure if I could be sure that the entire newspaper, for which I had just paid good money, was worthless dross. The next step would be to buy the newspaper which was the least likely to contain anything worth reading. Choice is the cruellest thing. I blame Mrs Thatcher.

There seem to be two ways out. The European solution (à la CAP) is to carry on paying writers to write but to withdraw their work from the market, stockpile it until it is out of date, then send it by the lorryload to the Russians. The free-market solution is to fill the gap by providing a quality publication that can be carried with pride, but which is guaranteed to contain nothing of the slightest consequence.

**The Times Profile:** with £7 billion to hand, Lord Hanson, epitome of the Thatcher years, is Europe's most potent capitalist. His next victim is likely to be the biggest

# Predator game to the end

To the boardrooms of the world, Lord Hanson is the predator they would least like to encounter: he has a habit of winning his takeover battles. This week, those who sit at the boardroom tables of corporate Britain were looking again to their defences after Lord Hanson's master company, Hanson plc, announced it had the best part of £7 billion in the bank.

The Hanson "war chest" is probably the strongest in the world. His pile of ready cash, which grows by the day, could be supplemented by borrowings of up to £16 billion. Few companies are beyond his reach.

Hanson accumulates cash for one purpose only: to make takeovers, and the bigger his company grows, the larger the companies it acquires need to be. During the course of one takeover bid, Lex, the influential investment column in the *Financial Times*, identified this need for ever more expensive acquisitions as a weakness. Hanson has turned it into a strength, enabling him to search out companies which are out of the reach of all but a few.

Lord Hanson describes his firm as an industrial management company. Outside observers would call it a conglomerate, if they were kept for the occasional private meetings at Number Ten. As the Tory knives were plunging into Mrs Thatcher's back last month, Lord Hanson added his signature to a letter to *The Times* urging the party to cease the attack. "The commercial and economic welfare of this country has been in the safest hands," the letter said.

But when Mrs Thatcher decided to go, pragmatism took over. Lord Hanson threw his weight behind John Major. "It is good news for Britain and for the rest of the world," he said, after Major was elected. "People overseas have been shocked and dismayed by the apparent rejection of Mrs Thatcher and I think they will welcome the appointment of a man very close to current policy."

On Major: "We are in a difficult downward situation and this man recognises the need to keep matters under control and not make too many changes. It is very good to have a young and energetic and able minister at No 10, and hopefully someone who will be there for many years."

While accepting and perhaps even quietly welcoming a change that might give the Tories their fourth consecutive election victory, Lord Hanson, together with a coterie of like-minded businessmen, is determined that the woman who helped put so much into their own and their shareholders' pockets will achieve immortality.

Nevertheless, his period in Hollywood, where he was the consort of starlets some of whom, like him, turned into stars, has left a permanent taste for the glamorous side of life, and a few close friends in showbiz. Frank Sinatra is one of them. When in London, he is Hanson's party guest.

Never poor, he is now seriously rich, with a personal fortune estimated at some £100 million. His remuneration from Hanson plc tops £1.5 million a year. There are houses in London, Berkshire and two in America. Horses are a habit that runs in the family rather than a consuming passion. His father provided horses for promising show jumpers such as Pat Smythe, but Lord Hanson himself gave up showjumping many years ago. It was his elder brother Bill, who died of cancer at the age of 29, who was the star of the arena.

Dubbed Lord Moneybags by the Sun, Lord Hanson is nevertheless determined to be seen as a member of "society". He reinforces his claim to a place at the top table with extravagant ges-

tures that land the "very private" peer into the very public columns of the diary writers. His wedding present (paid for by the firm) to the Duchess of Kent was a course of helicopter flying lessons. He drives, or is driven in, Bentley motor cars with personalised number plates. His helicopter is available when needed by those he favours. He often lunches in the main dining room of the Connaught Hotel. He is not so private as journalists who fail to get interviews are apt to pretend.

The Conservative party has also been a major beneficiary. Although knighted by Harold Wilson, he was given his peerage by Margaret Thatcher and is a dedicated Tory. Hanson plc donated £20,000 to the Conservatives last year, and the full accounts (in which political donations must be disclosed) will show, when they are published in a week or two, that the same amount was paid over this year. Hanson plc also put financial resources behind the establishment of city technology colleges.

In his annual statements to shareholders, Lord Hanson has seldom failed to praise the achievements of the Thatcher government. If there were criticisms, they were kept for the occasional private meetings at Number Ten. As the Tory knives were plunging into Mrs Thatcher's back last month, Lord Hanson added his signature to a letter to *The Times* urging the party to cease the attack. "The commercial and economic welfare of this country has been in the safest hands," the letter said.

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Hanson's business is built on the twin pillars of Britain and America. With European trade liberalisation, industrialists on the Continent will start to tremble

activity and move out. The company's activities are as fluid as water, and he is devoted to none of them.

That ability to move in and out of industries, in and out of companies, to sell as well as to buy, is a crucial element in the Hanson success. There is little or no connection between the various parts of the sprawling empire,

The firm sponsors the Derby, through one of Hanson's early purchases, the Ever Ready battery business. When Hanson launched its bid, Ever Ready was on its knees, spending too much on research and too little on making its plant efficient in their use of capital and labour. It is now, once again, this country's leading maker of dry-cell batteries. That Hanson magic has worked, and a contested takeover bid is vindicated.

But investment in sponsorship is expected to make a return just as much as investment in plant and machinery. Hanson gets massive publicity for the Ever Ready Derby, but reckons there would be even more if the race were run on a Saturday. Sir Gordon White, who runs Hanson in America, is working on it, and the Derby is likely to move.

While Lord Hanson has given his name to the firm, it owes much of its development to White's extraordinary skills. He waved goodbye to Huddersfield in the 1970s, setting off for America with just £3,000 of Hanson money in his pocket. That was all he was allowed, because exchange controls were still in force, but he turned it into a fortune for the firm. In the latest financial year, the American arm, Hanson Industries, made trading profits of £416 million.

Hanson exists for the benefit of its shareholders, and it is one of its chairman's ambitions that the wealth it has generated and accumulated over a quarter of a century be handed over. Hanson has taken over many businesses

except that Hanson businesses are likely to be simple and capable of generating cash.

The business has been built on

the twin pillars of Britain and America. Europe has yet to feel the ground shake as Hanson fires his corporate guns, but as the Continent opens its financial markets and European companies are forced to drop their protected structures, Hanson will move in.

are confident that their versifying

belongs firmly in the former category are invited to compete for the title of best bad poet in the world. The competition, held under the auspices of the International Society for Humour Studies, is named after the American poet, Julia Moore, who was described by Mark Twain as having the touch "that makes an intentionally humorous episode pathetic and an intentionally pathetic one funny". Entrants are being sent a piece of their finest for inspiration.

*Childhood days have passed*

*and gone,*

*To think that youth will never more*

*Return to me again,*

*And now kind friends, what I have wrote,*

*I hope you will pass o'er.*

*And not criticise as some have done*

*Hitherto here before.*

The contest's organiser, Don Nilsen of Arizona State University, hopes for entries from all over the world. "We are looking for writing so deliberately rotten that it both entertains and instructs," he says.

*Lucky break*

*T*he advertising industry,

chastened by recession, is

hoping that the end of the

Thatcher era, which spawned its

greatest successes and excesses,

could yet prove its saving.

Several agencies have already run

campaigns based on the change

of prime minister, using Mrs Thatche

r as a prop to sell soap powder

and dog food. More are on the

way, and the industry believes the

former prime minister will go on

and on selling products for

months, if not years, to come.

So far the ads have been run

without Mrs Thatcher's per-

mission, but the Advertising Stan-

dards Authority, which recently

which had made takeovers themselves merely because they had the money to do so.

The prime example was Imperial Group, the tobacco company that dominates the British cigarette market. Tobacco is a "mature business" which does not require funds for growth, so that profits can be accumulated in cash rather than ploughed back. Imperial spent its shareholders' money unwisely, and when Hanson made its bid, Imperial fell. Hanson does not have any intention of making the same mistake, but the bigger the group becomes, the shorter becomes the list of potential takeovers.

There was a sign, a rare sign, this year that Lord Hanson's sure touch faltered, missed a step. Hanson went into talks with the government over the possible purchase



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## GATT ON THE ROCKS

The collapse of the "Gatt talks" in Brussels yesterday is a disaster. The word is not too strong. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations sought to liberalise \$1,000 billion worth of global trade, affecting the economic freedom and prosperity of hundreds of millions.

The EC's refusal to dismantle the fraud-ridden market-rigging cartel it calls the common agricultural policy (CAP) drove the talks on to the rocks. The world is poised to enter a cycle of protectionism and "managed" trade which will exact a dreadful price in jobs, inflated consumer prices and market opportunities, and cripple the economic advance of the Third World and Eastern Europe.

Rearmament for trade wars has already begun. Recession will provide further ammunition as industrial lobbies seek shelter against competition. Negotiations are to resume in January, but after this week's monumental failure, the momentum built up since 1986, when the talks were launched, will be hard to regain. Suspension of the talks may be no more than a euphemism for breakdown.

Enthusiasm for the European ideal has been allowed with disastrous results, to eclipse liberal clear-sightedness on world trade. The Gatt negotiation was the first serious test of a common European foreign policy and of the EC's reputation as a group committed to free trade rather than cartelisation. The European Commission, logically in view of the creation of a frontier-free EC in 1992, negotiates on behalf of the Twelve in trade matters.

The Community, the world's largest trading power, has failed the test ignominiously. It flexed its communal muscle only to reveal itself as a protector of the markets and privileges of the world's super-rich. Who can now doubt that the single market in 1992, rather than setting the world an example of regional free trade, will lead to the erection of Fortress Europe?

What is so extraordinary is that the EC has been prepared to sacrifice real gains to its own inhabitants for the sake of just one interest, the agriculture lobby, which accounts for less than 3 per cent of its GDP, yet demands of its consumers and taxpayers more than \$100 billion a year. In the run-up to this week's "final" Gatt session, the Commission had claimed to be ahead of the member states. But the Commission failed to persuade ministers to recognise the strength of feeling overseas on

their intransigence. It failed to lay before them the magnitude of the price of breakdown which will be borne by Europe's more important commercial interests.

The failure has been equally culpable at national level. For the sake of "European unity", other governments allowed French and German appeasement of their farm lobbies to set EC policy. Four years have been wasted in which the EC could have been developing new systems of rural support which would distort trade less than price subsidies do. Mrs Thatcher's warning of impending disaster at the Rome summit in October was brushed aside, and the subject kept off the agenda to allow the Council of Ministers to concentrate on, of all things, plans to extend areas of common policy-making.

John Gummer, Britain's farm minister, spent this week proving his Eurocredentials by defending the CAP. His outburst yesterday against the Americans for "intransigence" was outrageous. If John Major were true to his predecessor's memory, Mr Gummer would be fired. Of the 15 areas of trade covered by this negotiation, only agriculture remains deadlocked. Every other government, including that of the US, gave ground in agriculture, trade in services and other areas.

The EC alone refused to negotiate on a Swedish compromise to reduce farm protection, which was roughly equidistant between the EC's proposals and those sought by the rest of the world. After that, nobody had any reason to expect significant results from an EC meeting which was just starting when the gavel descended on the whole show.

To save the Uruguay round will now take a miracle of concentration and farsightedness. Nothing but a radical shift in the EC's farm trade policy will do the trick. That is far more important than plans for economic and political union and must go straight to the top of the EC agenda at next week's Rome summit. The Commission cannot move at the speed required. John Major's offer to mediate between Brussels and Washington should be accepted by Helmut Kohl and Francois Mitterrand, chief architects of this wretched mess. Mr Major flies to Washington on December 22 and should be able to take with him a negotiable offer. If Italy, which is currently in the EC chair, refuses to put such a mandate on the agenda of the Rome summit, Mr Major should refuse to attend.

## MARXISM MAROONED

This morning the Communist Party of Great Britain begins a special congress. Delegates are expected to obliterate the hallmarks that gave the communists their distinctive identity until the year of reckoning 1989. Now apparently, everything must go: from the use of communism in the party's name (long since scrapped in central Europe in favour of less tarnished titles) to the strict party discipline of "democratic centralism" and adherence to Marxism-Leninism as a corporate ideology. Membership is down to 6,000 and falling fast. The CPGB's new leader, Nina Temple, gives a warning that "on present trends the party would cease to exist in 1994." It may even abolish itself as a party and become a sort of political club.

Tempting as it may be to dismiss Marxism as an exotic and now faded bloom, almost extinct in Britain outside the tropical climate of institutions of higher education, Marx's harder derivatives still flourish in the hedgerows of British life. They include the earnest, Eurocommunist primulas who write for *Marxism Today*, the CPGB's theoretical journal; the Stalinists who proliferate in the darker corners of the trade union movement; the colourful but toxic flora of Trotskyism; and the venus fly-traps of Labour's hard left.

The prestige of some older academic Marxists — most prolific, the historian Eric Hobsbawm — continues to command a respectful hearing. Since the renaissance of Conservatism after 1979 induced a sectarian renaissance of leftist ideology, Marxian explanations of Thatcherism gained some currency. They seemed to offer an historical context and dualist moral vision, equal and opposite to the new enemy. They were virile, as against the homely, latitudinarian Fabianism

of the new Labour party. What is now to be the harvest of those interminable redefinitions of socialism? It is no thanks to them that Labour is back in contention, or that the grand instigator of the Tory revival has been booted to the backbenches. How much did the Marxist cuckoo in Labour's doctrinal nest contribute to this reversal of fortunes?

The answer is nothing. The left did not predict Mrs Thatcher's downfall — indeed they were rather miffed at the Tory party shooting their fox — any more than it predicted the collapse of communism abroad. John Smith's plausibility as an alternative Chancellor — a key to Labour's revival — has nothing to do with long-winded critiques of "late capitalism". While the British public is attracted by promises of better public services, it will vote Labour into office only when it is satisfied that its leaders would make fit custodians of capital.

Would Labour really benefit by "passing through an intellectual revolution", as the Marxist theoreticians Stuart Hall and Martin Jacques demand? Perhaps, but only if they find themselves with another spell in opposition. Messrs Hall and Jacques jeer that "even in Thatcherism's death throes, Labour is still unable to break out of the former's shadow." Yet they must know that Labour's best hope is to remain firmly in that shadow.

Neil Kinnock has wisely abandoned this marooned intelligentsia to its fate. It is his resolute hugging of the shores of real-life Britain which has earned him within sight of office. But it would be churlish of the British not to applaud harmless loyalty to a lost cause. Perhaps this weekend's conference should be listed as an historic monument.

## TASTE, TIMING AND TELEVISION

Twice in the past two weeks independent television has been involved in making judgments about public taste. The Independent Broadcasting Authority eventually decided that a raunchy video by the pop singer Madonna, banned in the US, could be shown in Britain after 9pm. It has since been transmitted on a relatively obscure Channel 4 programme, *The Word*, which starts at 11pm.

By then the publicity from the American ban on the video and the IBA's dithering in Britain had achieved what the managers of Madonna's career had sought — public prurience about a tasteless video of clumsy erotic writings in black underwear, all to spice up a song of utter banality.

The second decision, not to show the Christmas drink-drive campaign commercial before 9pm, raises more serious issues. Just as pornography is largely a matter of taste, so is "shock value". The objection to the recent RSPCA advertisement of a dead pony, as *The Times* pointed out at the time, was not the impact of the image, but that the impact was based on a misleading reconstruction.

Allowing for dramatic licence, the drink-drive commercial is not inaccurate. It shows a small girl in close-up, reacting with increasing distress to the words of her mother, out of shot, who is berating her husband for killing a child while driving under the influence of drink. The link between the living child and the dead one is obvious, effective, moving and real, though hardly shocking. It passes the test of relevance to the public interest, which the Madonna video does not.

Custodians of television output have a more onerous task than newspaper editors in matters

of public taste. A newspaper can be read selectively, whereas television is a fixture in almost every home, exposed to most age groups. Television commercials and videos are beyond home censorship — before the viewer can reach for the switch they are over.

Nobody in modern Britain favours drunk driving. Nobody would dispute that a campaign to prevent it needs forcibly to invade the public consciousness, against competition from commercials for chocolate bars and electric razors. The reduction of a substantial public evil is worth the risk of offence to a few feelings, especially since the alcohol industry is still permitted to peddle its wares to a young audience, most blatantly in cinemas.

The drink-drive television campaign has already been weakened by the decision to announce that the commercial is aimed at men aged 35 to 50. Drink-drive campaigns should be aimed at anybody who drinks and anyone who drives. This includes teenagers, given the number of late night joyrides in stolen cars which germinate in public houses and terminate in tragedy.

The BBC and the IBA have had to make judgments on behalf of the viewer. The Madonna controversy was a "heads we win, tails you lose" exercise in cynical exploitation: either the video is shown as titillation to make money, or it is banned and becomes a publicity stunt, also to make money. ITV has handed Madonna double publicity by talking of banning the wretched thing, and then showing it. The drink-drive video did not need publicity for its timing, it needed timing for maximum publicity. The public can be trusted to know the difference and react accordingly.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Keeping armed forces up to scratch

From Field Marshal Lord Bramall

Sir, Having just visited, with a parliamentary delegation, our forces in the Gulf, I came back even more amazed that the Prime Minister, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, could have declined with such conviction, in the House of Commons debate on the Queen's Speech (report, November 9), that we can now "safely" cut our defence expenditure by 6 per cent in real terms over the next two to three years.

Of course, the decline of any foreseeable threat from the now defunct Warsaw Pact will allow some manpower and equipment savings to be made in Germany itself, but with the Soviet Union still on the brink of internal collapse he is a bold man who can be certain of how the strategic balance in Eastern Europe is going to work out. So we ought to keep some flexibility there.

Moreover, to achieve Mr Major's figure, in the time-scale he proposes, must pre-suppose the complete and early implementation of *Options for Change* — the Government's blueprint for its defence review. This, we have been told, would involve very considerable manpower reductions in all three services; and how a responsible government can contemplate that just when we are on the brink of possible war in the Gulf, the consequences of which are equally dangerous, particularly if you may shortly have to fight. It could be a sad ending to what started as a prudent and rational exercise.

So instead of genuine options for change which could be assessed and decided upon in the light of all the current circumstances, the Ministry of Defence is likely to be confronted with few if any options at all, other than an immensely resource-led scramble to remove, in the shorter term, any accessible items which will help resources to meet them.

Subsequently, in their fourth academic year, when they consolidate their learning and experience, their speculative and critical faculties are awakened. Only in their fifth year do they display maturity in handling issues from building detail to site context. Architectural practices cannot provide the educational consolidation which will be lost by confining the fourth and fifth years.

Full-time education of at least five years is the European norm and has been recommended by an EC advisory committee. We endorse this recommendation and believe that the present three-plus years is right. We support the RIBA and the Architects Registration Council in their stand in this matter and ask the DES to think again.

Silently the only answer is, while continuing to plan on sensible options for change, to suspend any "peace dividend" which should eventually accrue from them until the situation in the Middle East is clearer, and particularly to restore an adequate short-term cash flow.

Otherwise we risk damaging, perhaps irreparably, the effectiveness of our armed forces just at the moment when we may have to depend on their heart, soul and professionalism to see us through.

Yours etc,  
BRAMALL,  
House of Lords.  
December 4.

### Monet crush

From Mr Robin Howard

Sir, You state (picture caption, December 4) that by its close next Sunday 500,000 people will have seen the Monet exhibition at the Royal Academy. This is open to doubt. Half a million people may have paid to visit the exhibition but how many succeeded in seeing it is quite another matter.

The organisation of this exhibition has been a disgrace. My wife and I paid in advance so at least we were spared having to queue outside in the cold for hours on end, but we were not able to see more than two or three of the paintings and these only in conditions of extreme discomfort.

Huddled together like animals, we were prodded along by the force of numbers, all jostled together, in one direction only, in a stifling atmosphere which permitted just the occasional fleeting glimpse of frame and canvas. Escape was not easy, but once achieved turned out to be permanent because readmission was not allowed. Refuge in either the restaurant or the coffee room was equally impossible since there were lengths of the queues in both.

The Royal Academy may have made a lot of money out of this event, but it has rendered a signal disservice to the cause of art appreciation in this country. Many people may have been visiting an art gallery for the first time. They are unlikely to feel inclined to repeat the experience.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. HOWARD,  
New Timbers, 8 Upfield,  
Croydon, Surrey.  
December 5.

### School differences

From Dr John Marks

Sir, The European Parliamentary Labour Party's advertisement, headed "If a British third-former went to Germany, he'd be in a different class" (December 3), is well wide of the mark. If a British third-former went to school in Germany, he'd be in a different school.

Germany has kept the selective system of secondary schools — re-established with British advice after World War Two. But in Britain, technical schools and most of our grammar schools were casualties of the comprehensive revolution.

Perhaps it is time for us to rethink.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MARKS,  
2 Melbury Road,  
Harrow, Middlesex.  
December 4.

### Listed sheds

From Mr M. G. Wayman

Sir, While I enjoyed the delightful letter from Philip Clemmons (November 29) poking gentle fun at the quirks of our planning law, I must point out that the protection given to new work irrespective of merit can operate to the advantage of an owner of a listed building.

A bay window added to my Grade II cottage recently became very rotten and an application for a grant under the Local Authorities Listed Building Act 1962 met with success.

The BBC and the IBA have had to make judgments on behalf of the viewer. The Madonna controversy was a "heads we win, tails you lose" exercise in cynical exploitation: either the video is shown as titillation to make money, or it is banned and becomes a publicity stunt, also to make money. ITV has handed Madonna double publicity by talking of banning the wretched thing, and then showing it. The drink-drive video did not need publicity for its timing, it needed timing for maximum publicity. The public can be trusted to know the difference and react accordingly.

### Careers for architects put at risk

From Professor Trevor Dannatt RA, and others

Architect and fifth-year (second degree) architecture students

In early June the Department of Education and Science stated that it had been advised that such grants were "illegal" — despite the fact that they had been authorized by successive governments for 27 years — and on August 10 the DES informed local education authorities to cease paying them. This amounts to the middle of the vacation with parliament in recess. Local authorities staff-stopped and students cut off touch with their institutions, resulted in bureaucratic chaos and considerable anguish and uncertainty for students, some of whom will await their bursaries.

Second-degree architecture students, who have had their bursaries pegged at approximately the same level as the grants which they would otherwise have received, will be poorer than those available to students some of whom will receive grants of £1,000.

Subsequently, in their fourth academic year, when they consolidate their learning and experience, their speculative and critical faculties are awakened. Only in their fifth year do they display maturity in handling issues from building detail to site context. Architectural practices cannot provide the educational consolidation which will be lost by confining the fourth and fifth years.

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It is impossible not to conclude that these tactics are designed to bring pressure on the architectural profession, the universities and polytechnics to accept the department's ill-considered proposals effectively to smother the course. It is disgraceful that English, Welsh and Ulster students should be trapped in the middle of such a contest.

Students domiciled in Scotland are more fortunate: the Scottish Education Department has evidently disregarded the views of its Whitchurch counterparts and has allowed LEAs in Scotland to continue funding fourth and fifth-year students, both north and south of the border.

Yours truly,  
TREVOR DANNATT,  
H. T. CADBURY-BROWN,  
HUGH CASSON,  
THEO CROSBY,  
EDWARD CULLINAN,  
FRANCIS DODD,  
NORMAN FOSTER,  
PAUL KORALEK,  
LEONARD MANASSEH,  
JOHN PARTRIDGE,  
PHILIP POWELL,  
RICHARD ROGERS,  
COLIN SHOEN WILSON,  
JAMES STIRLING,  
Royal Academy of Arts,  
Piccadilly, W1.  
November 30.

### Cheltenham selection

From Mr Peter Maxwell

Sir, In the selection of a Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Cheltenham (report, December 3), I was one of the four finalists from whom John Taylor was chosen, by a clear majority and after the very rigorous process laid down by the local association rules. I should like to make it clear that I would play no part in any reselection process which a tiny minority of misguided local members might seek to pursue. I believe the great majority of other possible candidates would take the same stance.

If any pressure had been applied from "high" of which there has been no evidence, it would almost certainly have backfired. My experience is that local selection committees are understandably jealous of their autonomy in choosing the right person for the job.

John Taylor is a visibly outstanding candidate and will become an excellent MP for Cheltenham.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER C. MAXWELL,  
Old Alresford House,  
Alresford, Hampshire.  
December 7.

I believe it is important to understand that Mr Ingman's first duty was towards the Prime Minister and not the media. That was certainly the basis on which we treated his briefings. There were times when he could not in all conscience tell us the whole truth. But I believe I speak for my colleagues when I say that he was uniformly straight, honest and fair.

More senior members of the lobby with experience of earlier Downing Street press secretaries rate him as the best.

Yours sincerely,

TREVOR KAVANAGH  
(Chairman, Parliamentary  
Lobby Journalists),  
Press Gallery,  
House of Commons,  
December 6.

### Tribute to Ingman

From Mr Trevor Kavanagh

Sir, The vast majority of the 22 accredited parliamentary lobby journalists at Westminster will agree with the warm sentiments expressed by Robin Oakley towards Bernard Ingman (article December 3).

Very few of us recognise the image of Mrs Thatcher's former chief press secretary as the manipulative character portrayed by Robin Harris in his book, *Good and Faithful Servant*. But sadly, there is a danger that this version will enter the record as a definitive account of Mr Ingman's 11 years as "sources close to the Prime Minister".

I believe it is important to understand that Mr Ingman's first duty was towards the Prime Minister and not the media. That was certainly the basis on which we treated his briefings. There were times when he could not in all conscience tell us the whole truth. But I believe I speak for my colleagues when I say



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** December 7: Today The Princess Royal, Chief Commander, Women's Royal Naval Service, visited HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, Cornwall. Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE** December 7: The Prince of Wales opened the Cosmopolitan Care Project Day Hospice at Longfield, Burleigh, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Major-General Sir Christopher Airy was in attendance. The Princess of Wales, Patron, Turning Point, attended the Charity's AGM at Merchant Taylors' Hall, Threadneedle Street, EC2.

Mrs Anne Beckwith-Smith and Mr Patrick Jefferis were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE** December 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, today visited the Royal Ballet School, White Lodge, Richmond Park, and opened the Margot Fonteyn Theatre Studio.

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE** December 7: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, this afternoon presided at the Honorary and Higher Degree Ceremonies at the University of Surrey.

Captain the Hon Christopher Kennedy was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this evening attended a Christmas Concert in aid of the Radcliffe Medical Foundation at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Ashley Ponsonby).

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

## Birthdays

**TODAY:** Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear, 65; Mr Julian Critchley, MP, 60; Sir Peter Daniell, former Senior Government Broker, 81; Professor Sir Roger Elliott, physicist, 62; Mr Julian Galloway, first Member of Parliament, 61; Sir Edward Heath, former Prime Minister, 79; Mr F.G. Hawkins, architect, 85; Mr James Galway, flautist, 51; Sir de Villiers Graaf, poet, 56; South African politician, 77; Mr Geoff Hurst, footballer, 49; Sir Peter Levene, Chief of Defence Procurement, MOD, 49; Mr Terry McDermott, footballer, 39; Lord Prys-Davies, 67.

**TOMORROW:** Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 40; Viscount Beaufort, 79; Sir Nicholas Bonnor, MP, 48; Mr Billy Bremner, footballer, 48; Sir Stanley Brown, former chairman, CEGS, 80; Sir John Burgoyne, former director-general, British Council, 65.

## Dinners

**Viscount Alceby** Viscount and Viscountess Alceby entertained members and guests of the International Cultural Exchange at dinner in the House of Lords last night. The Ambassador of Luxembourg and Mme Molitor were among those present.

**UMIST** Professor Harold Hawks, Principal of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, presided at a dinner held last night at the university in honour of Professor Roland Smith. Among those present were:

Lord Barnett, Sir Michael Richardson, Sir Alan Rabinowitz, Dr G. G. Gao, Mr Anthony Thatcher, Mr Eric Thompson, Mr Dennis Part, Dr David Quigley, Dr John Quigley, Mr J. H. Blashford-Snell, Mr Trevor Huddart, Mr John Kennedy and Mr Jack Matthey.

**Midland and Oxford Circuit** Mr Peter Weitzman, QC, Leader of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, presided at a Bar Mess dinner held last night at the Birmingham Club to mark the retirement of Mr Justice Michael Davies. Among those present were:

Mr Alan Brown, QC, MP, Mr Stephen Brown, Lady Davies, Mr Justice Owen, Mr Justice Judd, Mr Justice Sir Alan Gray, Mr Justice Swarbrick, Sir Robert Kilner, Brown, Mr Justice Sir Alan Gray, Wakerley, QC, Mr Richard Wilson and Mrs Rosalind Coe.

**Plastics and Rubber Institute** Mr D.F. Oxley, chairman of council, presided at the annual dinner of the Plastics and Rubber Institute held at the Manor Hotel, Meriden, West Midlands, on December 7, 1990. The principal speaker was the Lord Plumb, of Colehill, DL, MEP. At the annual general meeting held that afternoon Sir Geoffrey Allen was installed as president of the institute.

## Service dinners

**HAC Mess Club** Captain R.B. Tiley, President of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club, presided at a fathers and sons dinner held last night at Armoury House. Major Stanley Holmes, Mr Peter Holmes, Mr Douglas Eadie and Mr James Eadie also spoke.

**1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery** Past and present members of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery held their annual reunion dinner at Woolwich last night. Lieutenant-General Sir John Learmonth, the Honorary Regimental Colonel, was the principal guest.

## Weekend royal engagements

**TOMORROW:** Princess Alexandra will attend the Civic Carol Service in Southwark Cathedral at 7.25.

## Anniversaries

## Today

**BIRTHS:** Mary Queen of Scots, regnal 1542-67. Linlithgow, 1542; Christina, Queen of Sweden 1644-54; Stockholm, 1626; Björnsson, novelist and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1903; Kyrle Bellew, 1822; Aristide Maillol, sculptor, Bayonne-sur-Mer, 1861; Georges Feydeau, dramatist, Paris, 1862; Jean Sibelius, composer, Hamcenlin, Finland, 1865; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Thuringen, Austria, 1868; Padraic Colum, poet, Longford, Co Longford, 1881; James Thurber, humorous writer, Columbus, Ohio, 1894.

**DEATHS:** Adriano Willer, composer, Venice, 1562; John Pyn, leader of the opposition to Charles I, London, 1643; Richard Baxter, Presbyterian writer, London, 1691; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Edinburgh, 1859; Gertrude Jekyll, gardener and landscape architect, London, 1932; Golda Meir, prime minister of Israel 1969.

74, 1978: John Lennon, murdered, New York, 1980.

Pope Pius IX declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary to be an Article of Faith, 1854.

**TOMORROW:** Birth of John Milton, London, 1608; Johann Winckelmann, archaeologist, Stendal, Germany, 1717; Karl Wilhelm Scheibe, dramatist, poet and historian, Leipzig, 1749; George Grossmith, author of *The Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1847; Joel Chandler Harris, journalist, author of *Uncle Remus*, Eatonton, Georgia, 1848.

**DEATHS:** Sir Anthony van Dyke, painter, London, 1641; Dame Edith Sitwell, poet, London, 1964; Karl Barth, theologian, Basel, 1968; Ralph Bunche, diplomat, Nobel Peace laureate 1950, New York, 1971.

The first voyage from England to India by steam was made, 1825.

## OBITUARIES

## AIR MARSHAL SIR VICTOR GROOM

**Air Marshal Sir Victor Groom, KCVO, KBE, CB, DFC and Bar, AOC-in-C Technical Training Command from 1952 to 1955, died on December 6 aged 92. He was born on August 4, 1898.**

VICTOR Groom served with distinction in the Royal Flying Corps and in the RAF in two world wars before rising to become AOC-in-C Technical Training Command in the 1950s. During the first world war and afterwards in Iraq, he established a reputation as an intrepid combat pilot, while in the second he was closely involved in planning the air side of the Normandy invasion. Subsequently he became senior air staff officer of the Second Tactical Air Force, the principal British element in the Allied Expeditionary Air Force whose task was to give battlefield support to the advancing Anglo-American armies in north-west Europe.

Victor Emmanuel Groom was born at Peckham Rye, London, and educated at Alleyn's School, Dulwich. In 1916 he joined the 28th London Regiment (Artists' Rifles) and in the following year was commissioned in the West Yorkshire Regiment. In January 1918 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and joined the RAF when it was formed in April of that year. Groom soon proved himself to be a man of great courage and skill as a pilot of Bristol Fighters in the desperate air battles which raged over the grueling armadas in France and Belgium.

In 1918 he gained the first of his DFCs when he and his observer shot down four German scouts in two separate engagements on one day, though heavily outnumbered on both occasions. The citation described Groom as "an officer of great courage and dash who never hesitates to attack the enemy regardless of the superiority in numbers".

From 1919 to 1921 he served in Iraq where the Bar to his DFC came for executing a daring rescue of a shot-down crew, while under heavy fire. On May 5, 1921, he was flying a DH9A on a bombing mission when another British



aircraft was brought down by enemy rifle fire in extremely rugged and hostile terrain. Under harassing ground fire himself, Groom managed to land his machine near the stricken aircraft and told its crew to climb aboard. He then managed to take off again with two of the rescued crew members in the back seat and a third lying on one of the wings. Besides displaying the coolest courage in the face of enemy rifle fire Groom also demonstrated great skill in getting his overloaded aircraft off the ground.

When the second world war broke out Groom was serving as Bomber Command head-quarters and became responsible for creating operational orders within the chief of staff to the supreme allied commander. This after some travail led to the birth of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force under Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory. It consisted of the Second Tactical Air Force, the US Ninth Air Force and the Air Defence of Great Britain which Fighter Command, of glorious memory, had unimaginatively been renamed.

Second TAF, of which Groom was senior air staff officer from 1943 until the end

were returning from bombing Germany. Invited by the station commander to listen over the airwaves to the comments of the aircrews, the King was highly amused, as Groom recalled, at the strong language in which pilots, gunners and bomb aimer expressed themselves.

After a further year at the directorate of plans, Air Ministry, he became head of the RAF staff planning the invasion under the chief of staff to the supreme allied commander. This after some travail led to the birth of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force under Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory. It consisted of the Second Tactical Air Force, the US Ninth Air Force and the Air Defence of Great Britain which Fighter Command, of glorious memory, had unimaginatively been renamed.

In retirement Groom continued to serve the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund, as a member of its grants committee. He was also treasurer of the Royal Masonic Hospital at Ravenscourt Park, London, between 1970 and 1974, and his planning expertise was effectively exercised in fund raising and ensuring a more efficient use of resources. He was a keen gardener, and planned, cultivated and maintained single-handed the beautiful rosebeds in the grounds of his south-west London flat.

His first wife, Maisie, died in 1961. He married, secondly, Mrs Marjorie Brown. She died in June of this year, and he leaves the second son of his first marriage, the first having died in 1976.

After the war Groom's promotion to senior rank and appointments was steady. He was in charge of administration at Flying Training Command in 1945-46 and was director general of manning, Air Ministry, from 1947 to 1949. His last appointment, as AOC-in-C Technical Training Command was after a period with the Middle East Air Force which he commanded in 1952.

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## SIR FRANK CLARINGBULL

**Sir Frank Claringbull, director of the British Museum (Natural History) from 1968 to 1976, died on November 23 aged 79. He was born on August 21, 1911.**

FRANK Claringbull bestowed on the British Museum (Natural History) during his 41 years of service the benefit of his lively mind, boundless energy and receptiveness to new ideas. He made distinctive contributions to the museum's twin functions as an internationally important institution of scientific research and as a centre for education in natural history.

Claringbull was appointed to the Luftwaffe commander, Generaloberst Stumpf. In these wars Groom made a reputation for himself as an outstanding thinker, and in 1946 Sir John Stetson (later Chief of the Air Staff) described him simply as "the best staff officer in the air force".

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stalled at the museum and further improved.

Claringbull's energetic leadership of his department had no limit. In 1966, when an underground store became accidentally flooded, he took off his shoes and socks, rolled up his trousers and waded in to help salvage oceanographical specimens.

In 1968, as the result of an open competition, Claringbull was appointed director. He was immediately faced with the challenge of modernising the museum's approach to the public through its exhibitions and other educational services. He was profoundly interested in the task being aware that it called for artistic and technological innovation and for the close involvement of scientific staff. He began by chairing a panel of 13 scientists to consider a radical new approach to the whole concept and presentation of natural history in the museum. As a result, a new exhibition was proposed with the aim of presenting to the interested lay person an integrated view of modern biology. The new proposals were approved enthusiastically by the museum's board of trustees and further developed by Dr R. S. Miles working closely with the director. Before his retirement in 1976, Claringbull had the satisfaction of seeing some of the new exhibition open to the public. Its success was widely acclaimed.

Those who worked closely with Frank Claringbull were constantly reminded of his meticulous attention to detail, often manifested by his reaching for a lens or slide-rule. Few, however, were aware of his many acts of kindness to members of staff and others. For several years after his retirement he served on the area council of the Bath and Wells diocese. He also maintained his interest in museums as a member of the standing commission on museums and galleries.

His wife, son and daughter survive him.

## WILLIAM S. PALEY

**Michael L. Tree writer:**

**IN YOUR otherwise excellent obituary of William S. Paley (October 29) you missed one salient feature of his character and that was his patriotism. He was deeply grateful to America for giving him his opportunities in life, of which he took full advantage in creating CBS. He desired to repay her, which he did in his many charitable and social interests and endowments.**

To his many friends he exhibited wisdom, a tremendous appreciation for life, energy and a sense of fun. These qualities enabled him to become a catalyst and centre for his friends, whom he entertained with unstinting generosity.

Bill Paley's death will indeed leave an irreparable void in many people's lives.

gance, an extraordinary intuition and boyish charm. To these qualities must be added a desire for the highest qualities in all things. The second best was not to be contemplated.

To his many friends he exhibited wisdom, a tremendous appreciation for life, energy and a sense of fun. These qualities enabled him to become a catalyst and centre for his friends, whom he entertained with unstinting generosity.

Bill Paley's death will indeed leave an irreparable void in many people's lives.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.C. Davies and Señora R.Y. Matute Barahona**

The wedding will take place today in Comayagua, Honduras, Central America, between Jonathan Simon Davies, only son of Pat Davies, of Salom, South of France, and Anna Pennington, of Penn, Buckinghamshire, and Reina Yolanda Matute Barahona, daughter of Virgilio Matute, of Tegucigalpa, and Digna de Matute, of Santa Barbara.

**Captain J.E. Goodebody and Miss S.F. Hanson**

The engagement is announced between Captain Justin Goodbody, Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, only son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Julian Goodbody, of Dyrham, Wiltshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr Russell Hanson, of Tunbridge Wells, and Mrs John Prescott, of Malmouth, Dorset.

**Mr P.R. Crawley-Boevey and Miss J.M. Kerrie**

The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of the Rev R.A. and Mrs Crawley-Boevey, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Kerrie, of Somers, Australia. The marriage will take place in Australia.

**Mr J. Holden and Miss J. Baldwin**

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Neville Holden, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Baldwin, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

**Mr R.J. Knowlton and Mrs J. Baldwin**

The marriage took place quietly, on December 1, 1990, in Cape Town, of Mr Richard Knowlton to Mrs Vanessa Baldwin.

**Mr J. Holden and Miss J. Baldwin**

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Neville Holden, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Baldwin, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

**Mr A.C. Rose and Miss J.L. Crysse-Williams**

The engagement is announced between Andri, eldest son of Marcia Rose, of Johannesburg, and Jacqueline Laroche, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Crysse-Williams, of Durban.

**Mr J. Holden and Miss J. Baldwin**

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Neville Holden, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Baldwin, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

**Mr A.C. Rose and Miss J.L. Crysse-Williams**

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Originals: Jeremy Atkinson, clogmaker.



Tochold: Jeremy Atkinson is opening up a new market in wooden clogs

## As did those feet in ancient times

JEREMY Atkinson introduces himself as Jerry the Clog. He says he is the last of Britain's master cloggers, although he finds plenty of customers for his made-to-measure wood and leather clogs at about £70 a pair.

Clogs date back to Roman times. In Britain they denoted class, and were spurned by the gentry while their workers lived and died in them. Now they are experiencing a renaissance. Mr Atkinson says, and adds: "I sell clogs to the salaried classes, not people on wages." One of his customers is an anaesthetist, another a social worker. He also shows traditional clog dances.

Mr Atkinson says clogs should not be confused with the Little Dutch Girl wooden shoe, more correctly called a sabot, and also traditionally worn by Belgian and French peasants. True clogs are composites of wood and leather. Because wood is a poor medium for transferring heat, they are cool to wear in summer, warm in winter.

Mr Atkinson says he is the only clogmaker in Britain both hand-carving wood for the soles and hand-stitching the leather uppers. Most clogmakers prefer to buy in one or the other.

He started in the craft after taking a teacher training course, which coincided with a glut of teachers, and served an apprenticeship with a clogmaker in South Wales. It is ironic that he set up in Hereford, a county with some of the heaviest clay soil, which can be death to clogs. "Clogged up with clay or snow, clogs are no good," he says. Traditional British clogs feature a variety of profiles that include a "duck beak" front, "common rounds" and "square

SANDY BISP  
• Jeremy Atkinson's clogs are sold at Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford.

toes", which were tipped with metal because they were worn mainly by miners. In the old days, clog irons — metal treads — were usually fixed to the sole of the shoe, but Mr Atkinson fits them only by request, soiling his clogs with an easily repairable version of crepe.

He prefers to use sycamore, crafting the clog from tree felling to foot. He says: "Sycamore is the hardest wood that is easiest to carve." Other clog factories use beech, which Mr Atkinson does not favour because of its short grain which, he says, is prone to splitting. Clogs need to be made from wood which dries easily and evenly and will not rot.

For the uppers, he uses cowhide or, even better, water buffalo hide imported from India which, although more expensive, keeps its shape longer. First, he makes a paper template of a client's foot, matching its shape to wood worked from freshly hewn logs. The fit is checked again, and then the carved soles are left to dry for up to three weeks.

When shaping the clogs, he uses a block knife, resembling a butcher's cleaver, for rough carving, and a hollower, which has a blade shaped like a broad comb. A rebate knife or V-gouge is used for the ledge of the clog, and a saw to cut the step of the heel.

Handstitched leather uppers are fitted with brass-headed welt tacks. The uppers may also be decorated, then coloured and given a range of fastenings including clasps, straps and laces.

SANDY BISP

• Jeremy Atkinson's clogs are sold at Capuchin Yard, Church Street, Hereford.

In a village near Oxford, just down from the church and along from the pub, amid a cluster of old stone houses, stands a 17th century barn. From the outside it appears unremarkable, which is a source of satisfaction for its owners, a husband and wife team of architects.

Joanna van Heyningen and Birkin Haward work together from their London home, which is very modern but, Ms van Heyningen says, "respects the other houses in the street, mediating between Victorians and the Sixties."

This emphasis on architectural respect is the key to the conversion of their barn at North Hinksey. It retains its stone exterior under a Welsh slate roof, but inside it is almost entirely open plan, light, white and spacious. "Like living in an egg," Mr Haward says.

"People complain about architects who produce the latest in modern design while living in gentrified terraces," he adds. "This is partly true: there is an inertia and a loss of faith. And in

### 'People complain about architects who live in gentrified terraces'

Britain the planners are about as deeply depressing as they have ever been. There is more conceptual freedom abroad."

Their two young children adore the "egg". They would prefer to live here all the time. Their room is the only conventional one in the house. Once the grain store, it is reached by white metal steps, balustraded with rails and mesh, like a ship's stair. "From here," says Bruno Haward, aged 13, "you can see the river when it's flooded right up to where the horses are."

"The country is much better," says Melis Haward, aged eight. "London is rather smelly, you know." When shaping the clogs, he uses a block knife, resembling a butcher's cleaver, for rough carving, and a hollower, which has a blade shaped like a broad comb. A rebate knife or V-gouge is used for the ledge of the clog, and a saw to cut the step of the heel.

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SANDY BISP

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Home from home: Joanna van Heyningen and Birkin Haward

# Going to get away from work in an egg



The architects' dream of country living: galleried bedroom, plastered stone walls and a wood-burning stove

exposed roof trusses. The effect is one of immense airiness, but also warmth. Making the house warm and dry were priorities. It is heated by underfloor plastic hot water pipes, fed by a small boiler. "We had to make an agonising decision over whether or not to keep the inside stone exposed," Mr Haward says, "but we opted for insulation and plastering, not only for lightness but also because stone creates dirt and dust and is

difficult to keep warm, particularly in a weekend house; you don't want to spend the entire time heating it up, only to get it to the right temperature as you are about to leave."

Light floods the main room and provides a view to the rear garden's espaliered apple trees and old Bourbon roses climbing the low stone wall at the end. The Seacourt, a tributary of the Thames, runs behind the wall.

The main windows in the living area are the only outside giveaway to the conversion. They comprise sections of glass, framed by a "yashmak": a screen of timber crosspieces which are hinged to allow window cleaning. "The builders thought we were mad," Mr Haward says. "People often put patio windows in old barn entrances and wreck the look."

The barn is L-shaped now; the

carshed has been joined to the barn to create a loggia which gives the house an entrance lobby and a dumping ground for boots and bikes. The linking section also provided space for the boiler room and bathroom, "avoiding having to carve up the main space".

The barn stands in the grounds of what was once Ms van Heyningen's parents' house, an early 17th century farmhouse, where Mrs Haward was brought up. Her mother moved to Oxford, but is near enough to come over when the family arrive.

Charlie, Mr Haward's eldest daughter, is an interior designer. Buddy, his eldest son, is an architect, as was Mr Haward's father. Bruno, however, does not intend to be an architect. "Too many in the family," he says.

ELuned PRICE

### Feather report

## Bitten by the bug of a thug

HARKEN unto the words of the prophet Zephaniah: "And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the porcupine and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work."

In subsequent translations, bittern is translated as hedgehog. I do not know how the hedgehog flew to the upper lintels, or what it sang, but clearly the bittern is as philologically obscure and weird as it is ornithologically.

The bittern has long been a bird of ill omen. It inhabits desolate marsh and its voice is — with the possible exception of that other bird of ill omen, the nightjar or corpse-hound — the spookiest sound in Britain. It is called booming, and is a male territorial proclamation. Few people have heard it: there were only 20 males booming in Britain this summer.

I have spent much of this year in desolate marshland, and have heard booming bitterns, lucky me. But I have not seen one. They are the most sneaky, devious, skulking of birds: they do not believe in being seen.

So here we have a bird that is rare, almost invisible and lives in the most desolate places. You could not design a bird that was harder to study.

Glenn Tyler is in the middle of two years' research on bitterns. He has spent most of the past year wandering about in a reedbed like a bittern himself. Bitterns are heron-like long-necked and long-billed, and thought to be exclusively fish-eaters. He has done most of this research in the RSPB reserves in Leighton Moss, Lancashire, and at Minsmere, Suffolk. He has recorded booming males

### Breeding

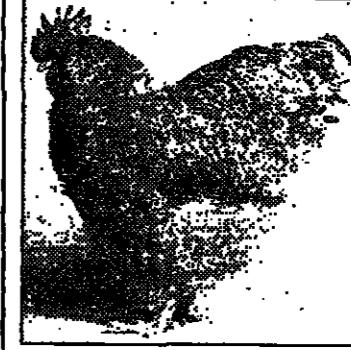
## Steady the buffs

WHEN a flock of Buff Orpington chickens processed across Horse Guards' Parade to wish the Queen Mother a happy ninetieth birthday, one man looked on with particular pride: Will Burdett, Keeper of the Royal Buffs.

The breed is a favourite of the Queen Mother, and the Poultry Club celebrated its centenary 13 years ago by presenting their patron with three Buff Orpingtons. Mr Burdett has brought numbers up to around 20. This year the royal entry took the breed championship at the Great Yorkshire Show.

Mr Burdett says the Queen Mother's knowledge of the finer points of the big birds, with their characteristic marmalade glow, is second to none, and the welfare of the birds is the subject of much correspondence between their keeper and Sir Ralph Astor, the Queen Mother's treasurer.

As keeper, Mr Burdett is unpaid, but he says: "It's an honour to have the Queen Mother's birds in my care. They may not be cult figures, like the royal corgis, but



Buff hen: a hardy, docile layer

our royal connection has done wonders for the poultry fancier, getting rid of any cloth cap image."

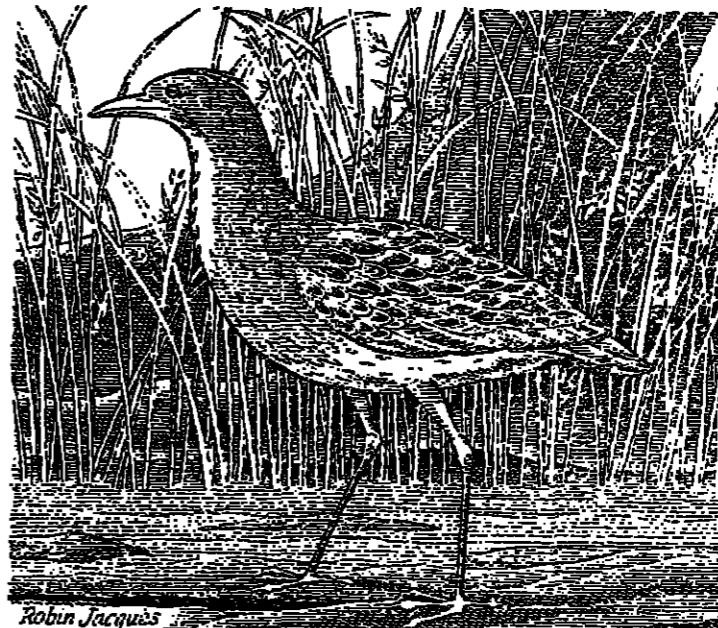
He claims the Buff Orpington is a perfect bird for most keepers because of its placid yet hardy nature. The buff colour should permeate right through in a diluted shade to the underfeathers. Mr Burdett says: "White underfeathering is not desirable, nor is any pecking on the backs or wings of the bird."

In the Twenties and Thirties Buff Orpingtons were popular table birds as well as good layers. They lay about 150 eggs a year, with excellent hatching and producing qualities. They cost up to £20 each and live for five to six years.

On the principle that nothing is too good for the royal buffs, they are fed on organic wheat and maize. Buff Orpingtons have their own club, separate from the one serving black, blue and white Orpingtons. Mr Burdett is chairman of both clubs. He has 200 birds at his home near Thirsk, north Yorkshire; some of the Queen Mother's birds are kept at Sandringham, Norfolk.

S.B.

• Further information from the Buff Orpington Club, Bryars's Bottom, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.



Robin Jacob

Booming but declining: only 20 male bitterns were heard this summer and compared their voice prints. Each bittern has a different voice: his research has shown that there are fewer of them than was thought.

As the birds are "invisible", he has kept track of them by radio.

This involves attaching a trans-

mitter to a bittern: not an easy

task. The transmitters last for nine

months, after which the batteries

fail. Later the leather strap rots

away and leaves the bird

uncumbered.

I have spent much of this year in

desolate marshland, and have

heard booming bitterns, lucky me.

But I have not seen one. They are

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and long-billed, and thought to be

exclusively fish-eaters.

He has done most of this research

in the RSPB reserves in Leighton

Moss, Lancashire, and at Minsmere,

Suffolk. He has recorded booming

males

minutes, and it has provided fascinating information ever since.

In his first season, Mr Tyler has

collected data that he trusts will be

confirmed by the second. The

birds are basically solitary and the

males hold enormous territories:

nearly 100 acres of reeds. They

need a lot of room. They do not

interact much, hence the need for

the enormous, low-frequency,

long-carrying voice to proclaim the

territory and attract females.

The male bitterns are polyga-

mous, and after mating they have

nothing to do with nest-building

and chick-rearing. They are also

given to the rape of females in

adjoining territories.

Mr Tyler is not purely in the

business of advancement of knowl-

edge. His aim after two years will

be to write a management plan for

bitterns: why they have declined,

and what can be done to stop it.

The wardens of reedbed reserves

will then try to implement his

suggestions.

Life is tough for bitterns. Mak-

ing a living in reedbeds is a

poor option in a country that in

recent years has been mad on



Anglo-Saxon attitudes: Margaret Dobson and her 250-room castle in Brancepeth, Durham, encapsulate the mood of Arthur Mee's early motorists' guides to the English counties

## England still belongs to Mee

**W**hen Arthur Mee began publishing his series of detailed guides to the English counties more than 50 years ago they were hailed as "the indispensable companion of the motor age", opening up the byways to the inquisitiveness of the first generation to use cars for leisure.

Reviewers were fulsome in their praise of the novel-length books. One described them as "the sort of eccentric inventory Macaulay used to take", and another welcomed them as relief from "the chattering urbanity of most literary pilgrims through the country".

The King's England series, as the set of 41 books was called, has long been out of print, available only through the collectors' grapevine or occasionally at antiquarian book sales, and even then only at a premium. Now, thanks to the efforts of Steve Rudd and Jane Ellison, local history and publishing enthusiasts, the entire series is being reprinted.

Three of Mee's guides — to his native Nottinghamshire and neighbouring Derbyshire, as well as the most recent, on Durham — are in the bookshops, and have stimulated a demand which has all but overwhelmed Mr Rudd and Ms Ellison, who operate from a former mine worker's house in the village of Carlton, near Barnsley in south Yorkshire.

Original copies of the guide to Durham, first published in 1953 — several years after the author's death — fetch up to £85 at collectors' fairs, but the new, 207-page hardback edition, published last month, containing maps and the 70 original black and white plates, costs £11.95.

Mr Rudd, aged 35, and Ms Ellison, aged 27 and latterly employed as the bass player in a country and western band, set up King's England Press last August to publish the Arthur Mee series, under licence from Hodder & Stoughton, the original publisher. The books, faithful reproductions of the originals, are produced by a firm of printers at Oley, West Yorkshire. Ms Ellison is employed by the company full-time, but Mr Rudd works with a direct marketing company while King's England Press gets off the ground.

The success of the series — Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire have already sold more than 1,000

copies each and Durham is going faster than either of them — has meant long nights packing copies and thousands of miles on the road delivering to bookshops and exhibiting to the trade.

"Our biggest problem," Mr Ellison says, "is that there are simply not enough hours in the day or enough money to produce the books as quickly as people want them." Originally, the couple intended to produce the entire series over a ten-year period but, because of the high level of interest and demand, they now hope to do it within half that time.

The information for the series was gathered by Mee and his researchers during the Thirties and Forties.

In Enchanted Land, first pub-

*This is the story of what we have seen in this Enchanted Land'*

lished in 1936 to introduce the King's England series, Mee wrote: "It has been a wonderful journey, this new exploration of England, and we must have seen a hundred thousand lovely things in our half million miles. We made up our minds to put down nothing bad if we could help it, but to be recording angels, and this is the story of what we have seen in this Enchanted Land."

To ask why anybody would want to buy a guidebook that is half a century out of date is to miss the point. The distinguishing features of all of Mee's guides are the attention to detail, the stockpiling, as if against some winter of fact starvation, of page after page of anecdote and local lore, with the journalist's eye for description and an unerring sense of place.

Today, of course, much of what is described has changed. Villages

have sprawled, town centres been redeveloped, and even the face of the countryside itself has changed, altered by modern farming techniques and scarred by bigger and wider roads. It is no small irony that the demands of the ever increasing army of car owners, the very people to whom the books were initially meant to appeal, have been pre-eminent in forcing many of those changes.

The appeal today, apart from the pleasure of such well-researched writing, is the opportunity the books offer to measure how the cities, towns and villages, as well as the countryside, have changed. With a Mee book in the car, it is easy to mark the progress, if that is the word, of change.

Take Durham, for example. Mee describes the county, which has changed in shape with much of its former area now in Tyne and Wear, as a "vast workshop", having a "vast coalfield and an ancient cathedral" as its outstanding features. The cathedral is still there, but the coalfield, which once employed 150,000 men in 150 collieries, has shrunk to a handful of pits. Once, 10,000 men laboured in large steelworks and another 8,000 built railways, engines and rolling stock, but today none of these is produced in the county. Vast areas of industrial wasteland have been reclaimed and returned to countryside and the county is once again mainly rural.

Nowhere is this more apparent

than in Consett, perched on a hillside in the northern Pennines above the River Derwent. Mee wrote that "its tall chimneys, rising from a long grey mountain of slag, form a feature of the skyline visible for miles", adding that the large steelworks had had a great reputation for more than a century.

Ten years ago, the steelworks shut down, throwing 4,700 men out of work and, in the subsequent regeneration of Consett, the 700-acre steelworks site has been turned to rolling green hills in the largest land reclamation scheme ever undertaken in Europe, costing £12 million.

Following Mee's directions today can still bring the traveller upon the unexpected human

### Country events

#### THIS WEEKEND

• **Twelve days of Christmas:** Christmas concert with refreshments. Also today, tomorrow in stable block, stalls selling hand-made items. *Buntingborough Hall, Shipton-by-Buntingborough, North Yorkshire (0904 470666). Concert tonight, 7.30pm. Tickets £5. Craft fairs, today, tomorrow 12 noon-5pm.*

• **Grassington Dickensian Christmas:** Villagers in Victorian dress, bands, dancing, barrel organ, buskers. *Grassington, near Skipton, North Yorkshire. Today and every Sat until Christmas, 11am-6pm.*

• **Birdoswald Roman Fort:** A four-mile two-hour tour of the Roman fort and civilian settlement with the warden. *Meet at Birdoswald Visitors' Centre, East Cumbria (ref. NY615663) tomorrow 1.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p. Wear strong shoes and warm clothing.*

• **Averbury Food and Craft Fair:** Seasonal craft items and food for sale in historic setting. *Great Barn, Averbury, near Marlborough, Wiltshire. Today, tomorrow (06723 555).*

• **Craft in Action:** Demonstrations, craft items and

charity Christmas cards for sale. Father Christmas, musical entertainment, carriage rides. *Dunham Massey Hall, near Altringham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow 10am-4pm. Free.*

• **The Art of Lego:** Major exhibition shows influence of Lego brick. Lego workshop in which to create your own design. *Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire (0825 527458). Today until Feb 28. Adult £2, child £1.*

• **Christmas at Tatton:** State rooms decorated as for a Victorian Christmas. At Park Farm, nativity scene, hot chestnuts, carol singers, handbell ringers. *Tatton House and Park, Tatton, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 548222). Mansion open this weekend until December 14, 15 and 16; 17, 1-4pm. Adult £1.50, child 50p to 15, 75p, car park £1.30. Farm today, tomorrow December 15, 16, 17, noon-3pm. Admission £1.20, child £1.50, car park free. Child includes small present.*

• **Dickensian Christmas:** Costumed shopkeepers, street entertainers. Father Christmas, refreshments, competitions. *Rochester, Kent. Today, tomorrow, during shopping hours.*

• **Christmas Tree:** Carols, folk stories and dancing, craft demonstrations, gifts for sale. *Welsh Folk Museum, St*

**NEXT WEEK**

• **Christmas Tree:** Carols, folk stories and dancing, craft

demonstrations, gifts for sale. *Welsh Folk Museum, St*

**JUDY FROSHAUG**

*Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney*

## Killing them with kindness

THIS week we killed two pigs, which was distressing, but not for the reasons you might imagine. What started as a brush with the 19th century ended up as a head-on crash with the confused values of food throughout the winter. I have read lurid accounts of the slaughter of weeping children holding jugs to catch the blood of bladders being excised and used to hold the lard. I was happy to delegate all these tasks to the abattoir.

The story began last Thursday morning. I always ask for neighbourly help when pigs have to be marshalled: capturing agile swine calls for a man of dogged determination, instinctive stockmanship and an ability to curb his tongue in front of the children. I have none of these qualities, and Richard, my neighbour, has. By chance we also had a sculptor staying with us who claimed to have wide experience of pig-handling, having spent time in the peasant cultures of mid-France. I was more interested in the muscle which years of chiselling had bestowed on him. Then I eyed the two, long, lean hogs, and set up hurdles ready to catch them. A bowl of barley meal was

and sausages. The killing of the pig was always a great occasion in the small farmer's economy, with the whole family turning out to help: what had been a grunting, well-fed friend by the back door would shortly become their guarantee of food throughout the winter. I have read lurid accounts of the slaughter of weeping children holding jugs to catch the blood of bladders being excised and used to hold the lard. I was happy to delegate all these tasks to the abattoir.

While the pigs' attention was diverted, we seized our chance and snipped shut the hurdles. We were half-way there. Recalling his Gallic adventures, the sculptor suggested we put their heads in the bucket of meal and, by applying gentle pressure, back them into the trailer. Minutes later we were bound for the butcher, five miles away. The slaughter house lies hidden behind the white-washed facade of a Suffolk village. The beasts are killed by the son of the vicar, who spares time to advise and sympathise with first-timers like me. More importantly, animals get kind attention, too.

There is no stressful overcrowding in undersized pens: animals are killed within a couple of hours of being delivered. It is as far removed from an insensitive factory atmosphere as

you could wish to get. So why, and here the 20th century intrudes, will the institution probably be forced to close? It is to do with 1992, when the whole of Europe will break into blandness. The rules that apply in Naples will be the same as those in Norwich; abattoirs that kill 100 animals a week will be wrapped in the same bureaucracy as those that kill 1,000. But rules made to govern a steelsworks would never work if applied to a blacksmith's forge, and neither will the rules of mass meat production ever allow small men, like my butcher, to survive.

To my surprise, I felt no remorse at their going. I can put my hand on my heart and declare that no pigs have had more comfortable, cossetted or better-fed lives than these. As the only purpose of raising pigs is for them to be eaten, I faced the abattoir with a clear conscience, with one provision: they must die as they had lived, with dignity.

For the moment, however, they were still free. They edged towards the bowl of meal but sensed the hurdles were some kind of threat, and the slightest twitch by any one of us made them flee. Even a six-month-old pig is unstoppable if it has made up its mind to be free. The sculptor advised the neighbour acted and let them get on with it. By macabre coincidence, the travelling pork butcher arrived with a wicker basket over his arm to inspire us with his hams, chops



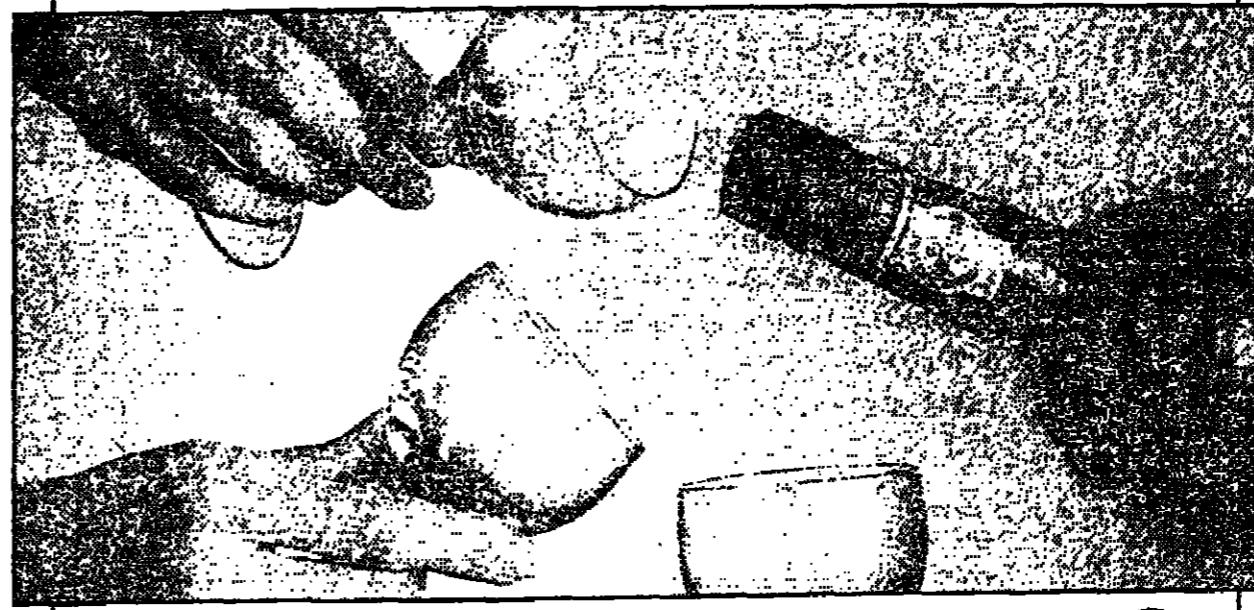
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The argument is long, but I know of no more sympathetic or stress-free end to a couple of pigs' lives than the one enacted last Thursday. Is there any chance that somewhere in the vastness of a united Europe there will be room for the concerned farmer who wants a civilised end to his animals' lives? Is there the remotest possibility that the small and caring may ever be valued as highly as the mighty and efficient?

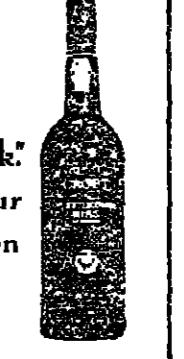
Pigs might fly.

**Men used to ask the ladies to leave when Croft Port appeared.**

*Today they wouldn't have the bottle.*



**In a less emancipated age, the end of dinner was reserved for "man's talk".** As was Croft Port. Today, however, when the Late Bottled Vintage or our 10 and 20 Year Old Tawnies come out, the ladies stay put. And the gentlemen find that when it comes to Croft Port, liberation can be a struggle.



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*Changing face: Chester*

## On the magic roundabout

BARRY GREENWOOD



No keystone left unturned: Colin Stananought (left) and David Ross

THE important point about the new Grosvenor Court buildings in Chester is not just that everyone likes them, but that they have been built on a windswept traffic island where for 20 years all others failed to design a development anyone wanted to build (including Sir Basil Spence).

Colin Stananought's buildings are all in red brick, some Georgian in style, some in the manner of Chester's greatest Victorian architect, John Douglas, who made the city the embodiment of the Romantic movement. They brilliantly complete and enclose the magnificent mile-long vista along Foregate, Eastgate and Watergate streets, Chester's principal thoroughfare. This is one of the best architectural treats in the British Isles, with an unparalleled run of richly carved black and white frontages.

As you drive into Chester from Nantwich you are no longer conscious of the hurtling traffic of the inner ring road. "This was the dog end of town," says David Ross, Mr Stananought's partner. "Since Grosvenor Court was completed, the values of surrounding buildings have increased sharply."

"We put the access road in over an existing sewer that we couldn't build on," he says. Inside, the new street, complete with stone cobbles, has the feeling of the Jaws of Court in London.

The pair have also been asked to extend an original Douglas building on the edge of the roundabout, healing another dreadful gash left by the traffic engineers. The reason for their success is not

difficult to see. Like their forebears, their neo-Georgian buildings have pedimented front doors, sash windows and keystones, with individual staircases inside, though they can be linked internally if a business occupies more than one. The real challenge was to make an impact at the corners. Their solution was to design big, emphatic gabled buildings with "a touch of old Nuremberg" in the steep. Mr Stananought says: "We needed to emphasise these corners, so we put in stripes of darker tiles on the roofs."

Strong use is made of the diapering, a criss-cross pattern overlaid in dark brick and continued in a band around the top storey. Two types of artificial stone, beige and brown, provide variety for window surrounds, cornices and drip courses. Mr Ross says: "Artificial stone is half the price of real stone, and if details are repeated the cost comes down still further."

Mr Stananought is responsible for a second development nearby, of a Fifths water board building, this time with the Grosvenor Estate, a big Chester property owner. The new buildings in Vicar's Lane further refine the Douglas style with overhanging eaves, complete with barge boards and sprockets (brackets supporting the underside of the roof). The brickwork is even more ingenious, with stepped gables and indentations, all confirming that with care a speculative office block can fit into and enrich a historic street.

MARCUS BINNEY

GERALDINE RANSON  
Opera Interludes/Philip Blake-Jones, 071-266 2392

*Help: Philip Blake-Jones, opera parties*

## What wine with the Verdi?

ANDREW BOURNE

Harmonious supper: after the main course and before the pudding, Cheryl Barker and Bruce Rankin perform extracts from Verdi's *La traviata*

**T**HERE is a bronze bas-relief of Charles Dickens on the wall of one of the cluster of antiquarian bookshops lining the narrow streets that converge on the British Museum in Bloomsbury, London. It is trimmed with tinsel in a seasonable tribute to the writer credited with having popularised the traditional Christmas.

Some people swear the bronze is that of Brahms or Marx, a mistake that could never happen round the corner at Jarndyce in Great Russell Street, where you will find more Dickensiana per square inch of shelf space than anywhere else.

Jarndyce is run by Brian Lake, a graduate of York University, and his wife, Janet Nassau. If you want to get into Mr Lake's good books, you will tell him that you recognise the huge framed print of *The Worship of Bacchus* on the wall as the work of George Cruikshank, one of Dickens's earliest illustrators, or that you have heard he can sell you a first edition Dickens for little more than the £19.95 you would pay for Peter Ackroyd's recently published Dickens biography.

A three-volume first edition of *Great Expectations*, bound in tan calf, will cost you £8,500, although you can drop that by £6,000 if you settle for an edition with forged title pages and printed on "slightly different paper".

The next most expensive item in the Dickens catalogue is a two-volume first edition of *Sketches by Boz*, with Cruikshank's signed illustrations. This will set you back £3,000. All this is mere petty cash, however, compared with what you would be asked to pay for *Great Expectations* in the original cloth binding. This is the rarest bird that can fall to the big guns of the Boz bibliophiles. It

## Old curiosity shopping

Brian Lake specialises in old books by the writer who virtually invented Christmas

is a first edition, first issue of *Cricket on the Hearth*, at £60.

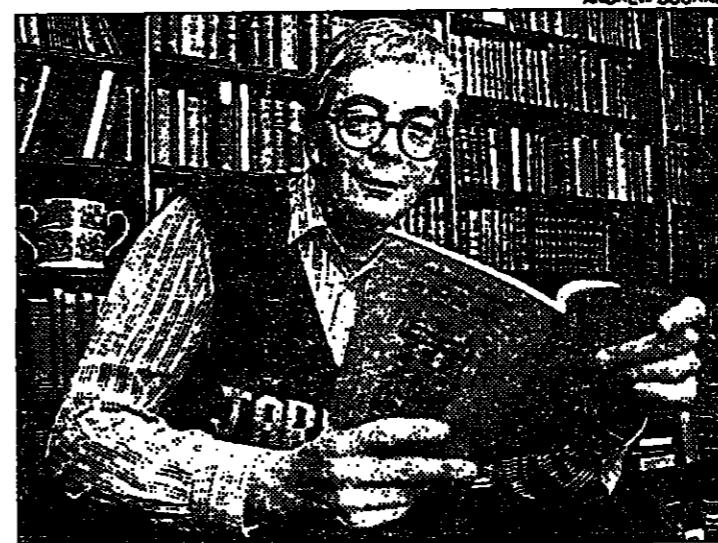
If it is the better tomes you are after, what about a first edition of *Dombey and Son*, in half-black calf, and yours for £60? Or a first edition of *Martin Chuzzlewit*, yours for £30? Or an early cheap edition of *Nicholas Nickleby*, for an incredible £15?

Or do you prefer something you can pick up and sing along to? For £25 you can get a copy of George Linley's little ballad (circa 1841) called *Little Nell*, inscribed to Dickens.

Dickens treasures are never more than an arm's length away at Jarndyce, but you will have to stretch a little further to reach the other, non-Dickensian gems. There are thousands of them, neatly stacked on shelves, or less neatly distributed in piles on the carpet. You would not expect some of them to be on sale here but available, for reference only, in the British Library across the road. There is, for example, William Hals's *Cornish Brush Vocabulary*, a holograph manuscript of more than 1,000 closely written pages, dated 1730 (catalogued at £15,500), and a first edition of Dr Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*, which is occupying much shelf space until someone meets the asking price of £5,500.

Of course, you could always do what I did: a jumble sale find of a little red book called *The Mudfog Papers*, which cost me £10, turned out to be a rare edition of a collection of amusing pieces written by Dickens when he was editing the monthly magazine, *Bentley's Miscellany*. Mr Lake told me it was worth about £200.

PETER DAVILLE



Wise buy: Brian Lake says any edition of Dickens is a good investment could cost you anything between £25,000 and £50,000. But what of the bargains? "My instinct," Mr Lake says, "is that the best bargains are the most expensive books." He believes, however, that any edition of Dickens is an investment, whether it is an early one of *A Christmas Carol*, which he will sell for £150, or a fine copy of the first edition of *The Chimes*, and there

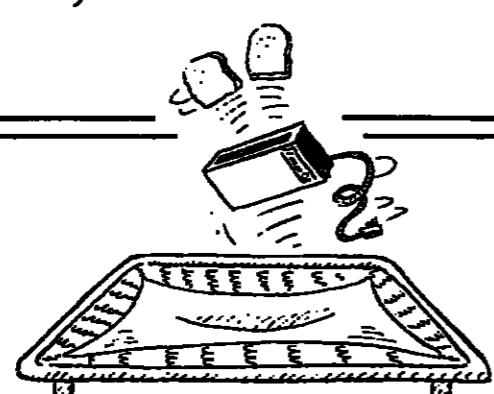
London Wall, London EC2. Tomorrow from 2.30pm. No need to book; adult £4, concession £3.

### NEXT WEEK

- Olympic International Showjumping Championships: Top international showjumpers will be competing at this popular annual equestrian event. Olympia, Hammersmith, London W14. Thursday-Monday, matinees and evenings. Tickets £6-£21. Box office 071-373 8141.
- Greenwich Concert: The Royal Naval College Chapel Choir and Orchestra, accompanied by Derek Nimmo, in a Christmas concert of carols and readings. Royal Naval College Chapel, King William Walk, Greenwich, London SE10. Wednesday 7.30pm. Adults £5.50-£9, child £4.50-£8. Further information 081-317 8867.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

### Events in town

#### THIS WEEKEND

- Christmas at Kew: Santa Claus and his reindeer in a Victorian grotto in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey. Today, tomorrow and next weekend 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm. Next Wednesday to Friday from 5-7pm. Admission £2. Admission to gardens, adults £3, child £1.
- Sportsman's Aid Christmas Fair: Visits from sporting celebrities, stalls, carol singers. The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2. Today 10am-6pm.
- Science Museum Film: A Drop in the Ocean, examining the many causes of pollution in the North Sea. The film is suitable for children of school age and their parents.

- Monet in the 90s – final weekend: Extended opening hours have been arranged at the Academy to allow as many people as possible to see the Monet exhibition before it closes. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438). Today, tomorrow 10am-10.30pm. Last admission 10pm. Admission to exhibition £5.

- Hospital Christmas Carol Concert: The Massed Choirs of the London Hospitals will be performing in

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# Working like fools and horses

IN LONDON

**N**ext time you see this particular toy, "it'll be on Police Five... I'll put it in a black plastic bag, lev, so if a policeman stops you, he won't know where you bought it." Johnny Wallington is in mid-spiel, wedged in on all sides by a cocoon of fluffy toys, wild-eyed dolls, boxed games and childish gadgets, a portly balding Ali Baba of London's East End.

Christmas has come — in varying degrees — to London's street markets, and here in East Street, south of the Thames, the lampposts are adorned with coloured lights and glittering festoons and topped with Santa Clauses, snowmen and fir trees.

Despite the seasonal trappings, however, for which the 260 licensed traders paid about £13,000, Christmas spirit is in short supply. "The punters are depressed," says Mr Wallington, whose father and grandfather ran the toy stall before him. "You can have a chat with some of the old girls but the young ones aren't interested." Only a handful of the "hedge" (crowd) that gathers around the stall is spending any money on toys.

He puts the mood down to the economy. "Normally there's no upper limit to the spending. This year we've found that the average is between £3 and £5." Last year his top seller was the BMX scooter for £35. This year it is a Mickey Mouse doll costing £8.

The result is that the manufacturers are offloading stocks and, according to Mr Wallington, "you can buy a bloody good bargain (excuse my French)". He is selling £15 brand-name dolls for £7 and £14 soft toys for £5.

Over the road, squeezed between a stall selling tinsel Christmas decorations and another selling trainers, Tony Feasey is offering glasses of hot sarsaparilla for 25p. "The punters this year are more interested in finding value for their money than anything else," says Mr Feasey, who has had a stall in East Street for 26 years. "And there's not the rapport there used to be between traders. Everybody's under pressure now."

But the jaded eels — "cockney eavers" — at £1.10 a bowl are selling well to punters and traders alike on market days (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

A 37ft banner emblazoned with "Merry Christmas" hangs across the front of the Robert Browning



Christmas bargains: East Street market trader Johnny Wallington

Primary School, which most of the traders once attended. This is the first Christmas that East Street has been decorated and the stallholders are justifiably proud.

But listen in on their early morning gossip over mugs of tea and greasy bacon sandwiches and the discussion is about why business is so bad.

Across Tower Bridge, behind Aldgate Tube station, Christmas shoppers are flocking to Sunday morning's Petticoat Lane, which is based on Middlesex Street and its nine surrounding streets. The 850 stalls sell everything from fur coats and fine chintz to tourist up to

but it is the cheaper stuff which is selling best this year.

Fay Stern remembers Christmases past when the traders would push their stalls to one side when business finished at 2pm, wind up an old gramophone and dance in the street. These days, few of the stallholders live in the area and tend to rush home when their "flash" (merchandise) is packed away. Mrs Stern, aged 85, has given up her linen stall and is honorary secretary of the Pincourt Lane branch of the Stepney Street Traders Association.

In Chapel Market, between King's Cross and the Angel, the council has hung lanterns from the lampposts and there are Christmas lights stretching from one end of the street to the other, eclipsing stallholder Ron Granger's coloured winking lights, which are normally the highlight of the market's Christmas decorations.

The 250 stalls sell everything from clothing and jewellery to curtains and household goods to a clientele which ranges, according to Mr Granger, from "the green welly brigade from Barnsbury, to the ordinary working people around King's Cross, to the tourists who get off the trains and wander up here while they're waiting for their coaches". The Christmas trees are selling better than soft toys and clothing.

**A** Gabriel's Wharf, on the South Bank next to London Weekend Television, the regular Friday craft market will be extended to Wednesday and Thursday in the week before Christmas. Here the 40 stallholders sell clothing, handmade jewellery, hats and bags. Many also have stalls at the larger craft market at Camden Lock on Saturdays and Sundays, returning to their homes in the country during the week to knock up more merchandise. Others run their stalls as a side-line, working at other jobs during the week.

Greenpeace will be singing carols at Camden Lock on the afternoon of December 16. There will also be hot spiced cider, roast chestnuts, organic and non-organic mince pies, and the vegetable stall at the front of the market has been temporarily transformed into a stall selling Christmas wrapping paper and decorations.

The lock's 250 stalls sell potential gifts ranging from home-made hazelnut, almond and cherry fudge for 60p a bag up to



Cold comfort in Covent Garden market: "Everybody is depressed," says the chairman, Ray Green

individual gold rings for almost £1,000. There are puzzle games, stained-glass windows, pottery and Vietnamese snacks, produced by a former boat refugee.

Karen-Ann Gledhill makes silver and gold jewellery ranging from £8 for a small pair of studs up to £650 for 18 carat gold rings with a mixture of diamonds and other precious stones. "So far I've been selling to people who are looking for Christmas presents but end up buying the jewellery for themselves," Ms Gledhill says, "which is not a bad thing, I suppose."

In common with Ms Gledhill, Graham Bacon has a workshop at

Gabriel's Wharf and a stall at Camden Lock. He imports carpets, kelims, hats, socks and gloves made by the nomadic Mujahedin refugees in Afghanistan, which he sells for between £2.50 for a pair of gloves and £200 for his most expensive carpet. He increased his stock of £100 items after finding "there's more and more £100 cheque cards around".

Covent Garden's covered Jubilee Market is also suffering the unseasonal slump. "Everyone is so bloody depressed," says chairman Ray Green. "It stems from the customer to the trader." Eric Wilkin's stall, the Pleasure-

dome, sells dancing Coca-Cola cans for £1.29 and compact discs for £2.99 (*Miss Saigon* a speciality). He says: "I've been here ten years and business is well down on previous years. It's pretty quiet, to be honest with you."

Jean Robson, of Handmaid, is finding coach trippers with credit cards are her best customers. She sells hand-painted boxes and handmade lingerie and baby clothes. But after 11 years in Jubilee Market, this is her quietest Christmas. Both she and Mr Wilkin share Mr Green's sentiment: "If they'd take 2 per cent off the interest rate, we'd be smiling."

Can you resist the verbal?

## OUT OF LONDON

• The **Barns** in Glasgow claims to be the biggest flea market in Europe, with more than 1,000 stalls. As well as fruit and veg, Christmas shoppers will find tin-sel and toys, scatter cushions for her and shavers for him. Open on Saturdays and Sundays, it is well known for its "auctioneers" with their Glaswegian patter.

• Newcastle's **Quayside** street market is one of the few legally entitled to trade on a Sunday, thanks to an Act of Parliament in 1976. Since the same act prohibits the city council from making a profit, the traders' overheads are low. Well-known local pitchers include Don Harris, who sells towels, and Kitty Hope, who sells stotties, a kind of Geordie bread. With 250 stalls, the Quayside is larger than Newcastle's Bigg market, open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays with only 35 stalls.

• The **Moor**, Sheffield, has about 100 stalls set up Monday to Saturday. Traders sell a variety of goods from wicker baskets to handmade pots and party nuts.

• In Leeds the open market is next to the covered market. Normally trading only takes place on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, but from next week it will also be open on Mondays until December 31. For a brace of pheasants or a first-rate turkey, get along to the special poultry auction held in aid of charity next Saturday in George Row. The entire weekend will be devoted to raising money for the local hospital's children's ward.

• Lock Meadow in Maidstone is a general retail open-air market on Tuesdays and Saturdays with 450 stalls. More specialised markets are held on Thursdays, "house clearance" day, and on Fridays for fruit and veg.

• Bull Ring, Birmingham: the city has held a charter to hold a market since 1166 and there has been one near the Bull Ring site for 124 years. Now there are four and all will be open six days a week from next Tuesday. As well as the famous Rag Market (second-hand clothes and designer wear) there is the Monday to Saturday all-purpose Bull Ring open market with 150 stalls. The 140-stall flea market should prove fruitful and the 90-stall Row Market specialises in teenagers' T-shirts and leather jackets.

LEE RODWELL

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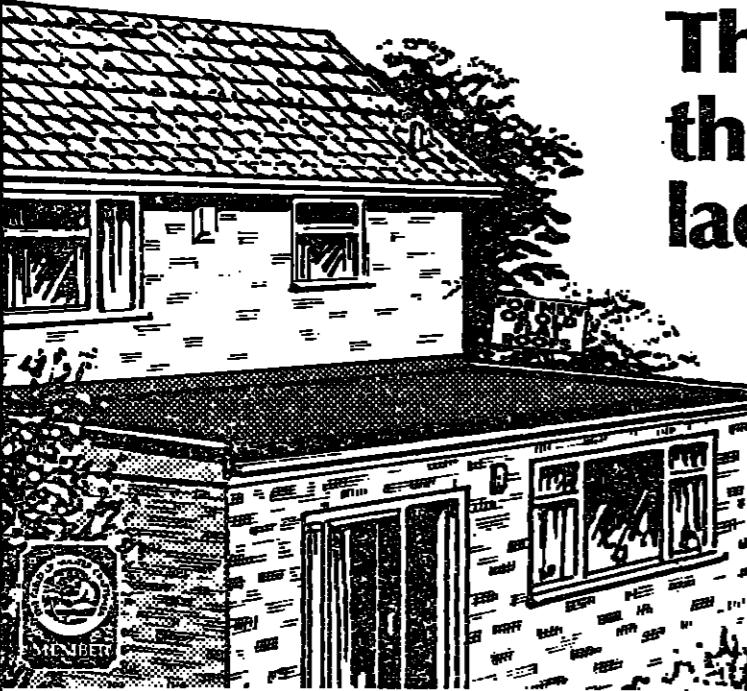
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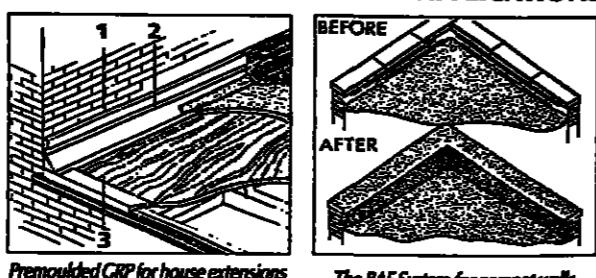
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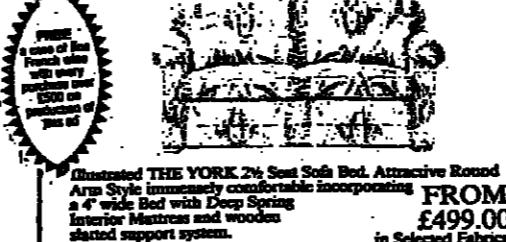
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Impressionist sales have been disastrous, Sarah Jane Checkland reports, but there is good news about British artists

# Houses at war against themselves

**Sotheby's and Christie's have suffered severe setbacks, and each is blaming the other**

**A**fter the worst week for sales of Impressionist paintings within recent memory, the two leading auction houses are blaming each other for the slump. After Tuesday night's sale at Sotheby's, Michel Strauss, the company's head of Impressionism, attributed the failure — takings totalled £6.69 million compared with last year's £6.8 million — to the fact that Christie's, which held its auction the previous night, had been too ambitious with its estimates. The lack of confidence caused by Christie's, he said, had caught on.

Charles Alsopp, a director of Christie's International, says he is surprised by Sotheby's comment as his company's sale "could not have had any effect whatsoever on theirs".

Christie's limped in with a total of £10.3 million, with only 25 per cent sold. Casualties included an important Picasso and Elizabeth Taylor's Van Gogh, *The Asylum and Temple at St Remy*.

"If Sotheby's is looking for a culprit," Mr Alsopp says, "it should look at its colleagues in New York who put on the Henry Ford II sale which we were forced to follow." He was referring to an auction last month at which his rivals had guaranteed to pay the Ford estate \$50 million (£25.5 million) whether or not the 36 works were sold. In the event the sale went so badly that trading in Sotheby's shares was temporarily suspended on Wall Street the following morning.

Even before the flak started flying, it had been an uncomfortable week at the Impressionist sales. Gone was the bingo hall atmosphere of last year, when eager clients thrusted their numbered bidding paddles in the air. Gone were the leading Japanese players, such as the Fuji and Umeda galleries. Aska International, erstwhile trawlers of undistinguished Renoirs, cancelled just before the auctions.

## Bicycles

### Tall in the saddle

WONDER and amazement marked the progress of Kirkpatrick Macmillan, the first pedal cyclist, as he bicycled his way in triumph the 150 miles from Kew to Glasgow in 1842. Staying upright on two wheels seemed to defy nature's laws, and the crowds that greeted him were so enthusiastic that he collided with a spectator and ended up in court.

Before the diamond frame fixed the basic shape of bicycles, there was no limit to the ingenuity of inventors. Their products emerged with two, three or four wheels, and had pedals in the middle, at the front, or even on the handlebars. These inventions can be seen to be believed, in Benson, a small village in Oxfordshire.

Here, in a Nissen hut, a caravan, two lofts and several barns, there is gathered (their owner says) the finest private collection of bicycles in the world. Ned Passey, who began his collection 30 years ago with a penny-farthing donated by his father, has more than 500 machines, including specimens of national and historic significance.

There are familiar sights such as the boneshaker (which, contrary to popular

belief, did have brakes; the rider simply had to twist his handlebars for a considerable time before he wanted to stop), and more than 50 "ordinary" or "high" bicycles, as penny-farthings are properly known. Those who could afford an ordinary — about £25 — were able to look down on their hoit poloi for as long as they remained in the saddle.

The prize exhibit stands inside Mr Passey's bungalow. In perfect condition, the Willard Sawyer, displayed at the Great Exhibition of 1851, was long thought to have been destroyed. The four-wheeler turned up in a mansion in Kent where it had stood since

1902. Mr Passey bought it in 1984; after interest from overseas, it is the subject of a preservation order to stop it being taken out of Britain.

Charles Dean of Phillips, in London, says that collectors buy and sell within the clubs and it is impossible to secure machines in sufficient numbers. John Baddeley, of Sotheby's, says that "anything out of the ordinary" will fetch £6,000 to £10,000, but fewer than 20 bicycles were wheeled through the company's portals last year. The country auction is a better source of supply.

Buying a veteran bicycle is not a simple task. John Pilkington, the president of the Veteran Cycle Club, thinks that these treasures have been

to £800,000. Bonhams' sale of old masters includes drawings and British paintings. Bloomsbury Book Auctions sale has a strong natural history section.

Thursday and Friday: Sotheby's has a sale of antiquities, notably a group of Irish Bronze Age gold torcs from the collection of the Dukes of Northumberland. In Dorset, H. Y. Duke & Son has a sale of silver jewels and furniture.

Friday: A strong Spanish presence at Christie's main winter sale of old masters, headed by a Murillo of St Joseph and the Christ Child (up to £1.3 million).

Wednesday: Sotheby's has a Watteau, *La Porte de Valence* (up to £800,000); Phillips a Sermonets Madonna (up to £15,000) and roses by Redouté (up to £25,000), but who would not rather have one of Ernest Shepard's original drawings for Winnie the Pooh or Wind in the Willows on sale at South Kensington?

Thursday: Sotheby's has Canova's marble Apollo at up to £1.2 million at Sotheby's to a "private oriental gentleman".

Monday: Christie's has Chinese ceramics, jades and works of art, notably a Yongle period Ming blue and white lotus dish, estimated at up to £100,000. Sotheby's offers the jewels collected by Ava Gardner and Dorothy Allen.

Tuesday: Constable's *Entrance to Fen Lane*, a recently rediscovered landscape, is on offer at Phillips (estimate £3 million).

Top gear: The Bentley which belonged to the racing driver Woolfie "Babe" Barnato, chairman of Bentley Motors in the Twenties, was sold for



Break with tradition: Melanie Clore on Sotheby's rostrum this week

tial buyers. There was an outcry when it was discovered that they had lent Alan Bond, the Australian businessman, half the \$53.9 million (£26.95 million) he paid for Van Gogh's *Japonaiserie* just after the worldwide stock market crash in October 1987. The fear was that the price paid was unrealistic.

The reasons for the slump are multiple. Some, such as the Gulf confrontation and the erratic behaviour of the world's markets, are outside the auctioneers' control. But, even had these not occurred, the Impressionist market had been hurling towards a fall.

"Sotheby's and Christie's have in my opinion set Japanese against Japanese and European against European, and this one against that one, and they have tried to become art dealers," Mr Green complained. "I don't think they have made a very good job of it."

The auctioneers established cunning methods of attracting buyers, thereby establishing a speculative spiralling of prices. One by one they backfired. Examples include the practice whereby Sotheby's lends money to potential

In Britain, apprehensive sellers

are persuaded to make panic

adjustments to the reserve prices,

sometimes a reduction of 40 per cent. In the short term, this can

ensure a sale and, therefore, the auctioneer's commission. In the long term it adds further confusion to a price structure which is already crazy.

From the auctioneer's point of view, it is better to sell things at even half the price they might have fetched a year ago than not to sell at all," says Julian Agnew, the dealer. "But you cannot create a market when one isn't there."

As for the future, that is partly up to President Saddam and the world economy. Many corners of the art market which have been free of speculation, such as furniture, silver and jewellery, will no doubt continue to stroll along happily. As for Impressionism, who knows?

Because owners of quality works are understandably holding back, both Sotheby's and Christie's plan to reduce the number of Impressionist sales they have a year from three to two.

The awful truth is that, having lived by publicity, the Impressionist market may have died by it.

The awful truth is that, having

lived by publicity, the Impressionist market may have died by it.

## A words guide to attic art

Which British artist painted or sculpted what and when? Here is a timely tome that tells all

Artists, so the convention goes, are garage-industrialists working against the odds. It is apt, therefore, that the first dictionary of their 20th century British manifestations has been produced in similar circumstances.

For four years Frances Spalding has laboured virtually alone in archives, galleries and the bedroom of her north London flat piecing together the *Dictionary of British Art: 20th Century Painters and Sculptors*.

The achievement is all the greater because Britain, despite a reputation for ploddingism, produces more artists than anywhere else in the world. Mrs Spalding's catchment embraces more styles, media and methods than any previous century.

Her book follows an ill-fated attempt in the early Seventies by the American-financed Paul Mellon Foundation to produce a dictionary of British art.

The new book placed together

with the previous volumes in the Antiques Collectors' Club series of British art dictionaries means that this small, privately published company has succeeded where the mighty Mellon foundation failed.

Last week, the author was apprehensive as the publication date drew nigh. "I'm going to get a very mixed mailbag," she said, "what with aggrieved letters from those who have been omitted, or those who feel I've missed out the one particular honour of which they are so proud."

However, the collective sigh of relief from dealers, collectors and art historians, who will from now on be saved similar efforts, will no doubt drown any complaints.

Mrs Spalding has written numerous art books, including biographies of Vanessa Bell and Roger Fry. Research has ranged from tracing the progress of artists back through the chains of exhibitions in their name, and spending time



Apprehensive: author Frances Spalding is expecting aggrieved letters

trying to persuade certain women artists to reveal their ages. As the gaps in their entries reveal, she was

filled with Morvenna Thislethwaite and Nairne Tate.

Choosing who to include in the 7,000 entries was another challenge. This is where her ideological even-handedness could be considered a disadvantage. As an art undergraduate at Nottingham university in the early Seventies she was, she says, brainwashed by the dogma of Clement Greenberg, the American critic, whereby the only art that counted was Minimal.

Over the past decade, however, her perceptions changed to embrace that "host of slightly eccentric people who picked up on literary and native traditions and ignored the accepted creed": the Romantics.

The book starts with an excellent potted-history preface. The entries which follow include whimsical biographical details, such as "wife destroyed his paint

brushes, and so he could only resume work after her death". Sometimes, however, the entries are short on evaluation or description, reducing many artists to a string of dates. This is understandable with some artists on whom information is limited, but disappointing when applied to 20th century greats, such as Stanley Spencer. "Born Cookham, Berkshire, the eighth child of an organist and piano teacher."

The only comment on Ben Nicholson's career as our greatest abstract artist is: "Throughout his long and distinguished career he never surpassed the intensity and concision of his white reliefs, produced during the second half of the Thirties".

However, as Mrs Spalding says: "The book is only a blue-print." And an important one, too.

S.J.C.

*© Dictionary of British Art: 20th Century Painters and Sculptors is published today by the Antiques Collectors' Club (£45).*

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## CLASSICAL MUSIC

# Letters home from a secretive maestro

**Norman Lebrecht on correspondence that will fuel speculation about Karajan's rise**

The dark years of Herbert von Karajan have come unexpectedly to light in a bundle of letters being sold at Sotheby's, New York, on Tuesday. The conductor, who died last year, kept resolutely quiet about his career and sympathies in Nazi Germany. The letters, written to his parents in Salzburg, fill in some gaps and contain at least one ugly anti-Semitic remark.

They do not resolve the controversy of exactly when he joined the Nazi party — whether as an early 1933 enthusiast or, as he claimed, as a reluctant 1935 conscript.

Halfway between the contested dates, in June 1934 while jobless in Berlin, he wrote home refusing to visit an ailing grandmother in Graz, saying he was busy registering with the Reich Chamber of Music. As an Austrian citizen, he was not obliged to enlist with Goebbels' bureau of racially pure and politically pliable musicians. Evidently he joined to signify support for the regime.

Soon after, still without visible means of sustenance, he declined a possible opening at the Volkssoper in Vienna, complaining that "all of Palestine" seemed to gather there. Any connection with Jewish artists in Austria might have prejudiced his chances in the Third Reich.

Karajan always maintained that he joined the Nazi Party under duress, as a precondition for becoming opera conductor at Aachen. The letters reveal that he was, by then, in great demand.



Karajan: dark past

his privacy, and would presumably have tried to repossess the letters had he known of their existence. They passed to the present, unidentified owner in 1978.

Although Karajan's musical reputation has declined to some extent since his death, it shines undimmed in Japan, where Sony paid more than £10 million for his final legacy of concert videos. Tuesday's bidding is expected to realise \$250,000 (£128,000) from Japanese collectors; independent scholars may never get to examine the conductor's domestic version of his phenomenal rise.

## Collective swamping

## JAZZ

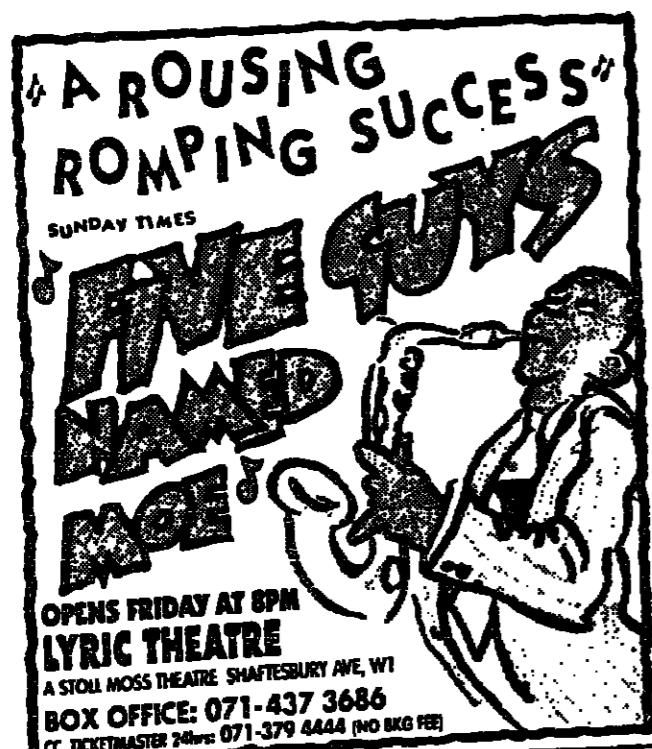
**John Rae Collective/ Pat Kane Queen Elizabeth Hall**

ACCORDING to their followers in Scotland, the John Rae Collective can already be numbered amongst the premier jazz groups in Britain. Monday's appearance at the South Bank did their reputation no harm, though the sextet still looks some way short of a guaranteed place in the first division.

Led by the drummer John Rae, the musicians have been together for three years, and have just released a new album, *The Big If Smiles Again*. Their fluent and energetic repertoire falls into that nebulous category known as "post bop", in which youthful enthusiasm and belter-skelter soloing are given first priority.

The first set found them grappling with the sound balance, a task made more difficult by the

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## OPERA

# Time for a change of tune

If our opera houses cannot compete with Europe, they need urgent rethinking, says Graham Vick. He talks to Richard Morrison

**I**f the future of opera in Britain lies with any one person, that person is probably Graham Vick. European opera houses are queuing to offer him large budgets to stage their productions. Liverpool-born Vick can afford to be selective. "How do you judge what are going to be the lesser nightmarish?"

In Britain his stagings have shown astonishing range, from the intense pugnacity of *Madam Butterfly* for English National Opera to his clever elucidation of Luciano Berio's *Un Re in Ascolta* at Covent Garden. Yet perhaps his finest achievements have not been in opera houses at all, but in the community halls visited by his own company, City of Birmingham Touring Opera (CBTO).

Last year it cut across cultural barriers with an Indian opera by Ravi Shankar; this year it won huge success with its "pocket version" of Wagner's *Ring* (four nights' music condensed into two; 80 musicians condensed to 18; and audiences cheering at every stop). It has so delighted its paymaster — Birmingham City Council — that the local authority has vastly increased its subsidy and promised a new, 500-seat theatre for the company by the end of the last few years.

Whichever way one looks at it, Vick is floating to the top of the operatic pool. All the more disconcerting, then, to hear him express forebodings about the very future of big opera in this country, despite the so-called opera boom of the last few years.

He contends that the notion of London's two companies, the Royal Opera and English National Opera, being considered part of the top international circuit is now ludicrous, so small has the subsidy become in comparison with that given to their foreign counterparts. "We can't compete anymore: all our companies are spiralling downwards. There should be at least one opera company capable of putting on big productions. Here, the only option is the low-budget one."

Vick flourishes some devastating figures. "For the production of Weill's *Mahagonny* which I did in Florence this summer, I was given a budget of £750,000, whereas for staging the world premiere of Stephen Oliver's *Timon of Athens* for ENO, it'll be given a £65,000 budget. For doing *Otello* in Berlin in the spring I will have a budget of £600,000, whereas two operas I was himself staging pocket operas with Opera-Go-Round in Scotland at the start of his career. But touring companies have traditionally

written off.

The CBTO policy of staging cut-down operas is not original. Vick was himself staging pocket operas with Opera-Go-Round in Scotland at the start of his career. But touring companies have traditionally

written off.

"IF YOU believe in God, then anything is possible." Most of us usually manage to believe in faires for just long enough to prevent Tinkerbell from snuffing it in *Peter Pan*, but this preachy "family" show (adapted by Jeremy Lloyd from his best-selling *Woodland Gospels According to Captain Beaky*) may stick in some post-Christian teeth.

I felt slightly queasy watching Captain Beaky and his band of evangelists hoppy-skip about the stage, vainly searching for some rodent agnostic or insect atheist to convert to the ways of Jesus. Artful Owl (Patrick Cargill) tells the story of the gospels attractively enough, calmly briefing the animals as if he were Obi Wan Kenobi explaining the force to Luke Skywalker. But the dialogue is as heavy and laboured as a sketch in a cheap student revue, like a stone wrapped in the

## THEATRE

**Heaven's Up Playhouse**

wispy Turin Shroud of a plot. Then the band of cute evangelists come up against their old adversary, Hissing Sid. Like so much else about Wendy Toye's thoroughly unimaginative production, the snakes are disappointing mere glove puppets sticking out of holes in the gauzed, knotted trees of Claire Lytle's set, whose soaring, crept-up heights dwarf the actors.

The tacky, tatty costumes have the whiff of some purgatorial Oxfam frequented by fallen angels. Beaky himself (Mike Berry) resembles a cross between a mangy capon and Captain Bird's Eye, but it is Barry Bat (Marsha Bland) — wearing what seems to be



Graham Vick: "We can't compete anymore; all our companies are spiralling downwards."

ally been minor-league: training camps for young singers. Rarely

does a producer of Vick's stature

become so involved.

One of his aims is clearly to widen operatic appreciation. "After the first night of the *Ring Saga*, a radio reporter asked a man in the audience if he had ever been to an opera before. He replied, 'Only once: it was an Indian opera'. So for that man, opera as an artform defined by Ravi Shankar's *Ghanashayam* and then by our pocket *Ring*. Isn't that terrible?"

But Vick's other chief aim is even more radical: to demonstrate that the opera company of the future could have total flexibility, unencumbered by permanent orchestras and choruses. "CBTO can do anything it wants, and that's how opera generally should go. At

present, companies are trapped in 19th-century structures."

Vick points out that last year, for *Ghanashayam*, CBTO consisted of 15 Asian musicians, while this year its orchestra has comprised

the 18 symphonic instrumentalists

needed for Jonathan Dove's *Wagner* re-orchestration. CBTO's next

project — a staging of *Les Boreades* by the 18th-century composer

Rameau — will require completely different forces again: Baroque-style performers (plus a choreographer who, says Vick, "is expert in 18th-century dance but has his heart in Merce Cunningham"). That kind of flexibility is difficult for normal companies.

A more unlikely prophet of doom than the irresistibly chirpy Vick would be hard to imagine. That makes his warnings the more

striking. At Covent Garden there are rumours of new productions being cancelled, of redundancies, and even of the season being curtailed to a few months in order that at least one or two big productions are mounted. At ENO the new younger audiences won in the 1980s have been hit hard by the recession. Even if the government wrote off the big companies' deficits, the increase in subsidies needed to bring them back into international reckoning is now too large to contemplate realistically. Opera administrators must examine the success of alternative approaches, and ponder the future hard.

© CBTO's *Ring Saga* is at the Cocks

Moors Woods Leisure Centre,

Birmingham, tonight and Monday.

## Twee tales from the woods

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wispy Turin Shroud of a plot. Then the band of cute evangelists come up against their old adversary, Hissing Sid. Like so much else about Wendy Toye's thoroughly unimaginative production, the snakes are disappointing mere glove puppets sticking out of holes in the gauzed, knotted trees of Claire Lytle's set, whose soaring, crept-up heights dwarf the actors.

The tacky, tatty costumes have the whiff of some purgatorial Oxfam frequented by fallen angels. Beaky himself (Mike Berry) resembles a cross between a mangy capon and Captain Bird's Eye, but it is Barry Bat (Marsha Bland) — wearing what seems to be

a converted lampshade from some Sixties Halloween party — who steals the show. She gives a sparkling performance, singing with a voice that resembles Ratty's crushed-velvet costume in the lower gears, but which, once revved up, begins to take on the qualities of a laser-beam à la Bonnie Langford.

Jim Parker's music is insistently quaint and studded with pretty tunes, but too many of the songs are ensemble bashes, with the cast standing in a line chanting, as if at a Sunday-school singalong. As a result, the characters' individual qualities are never firmly established, and it is hard not to feel alienated by so shabby a work with so palpable a design.

The show makes an attractive scripture lesson, but it is a flaccid musical, as tame as it is twee.

MICHAEL WRIGHT



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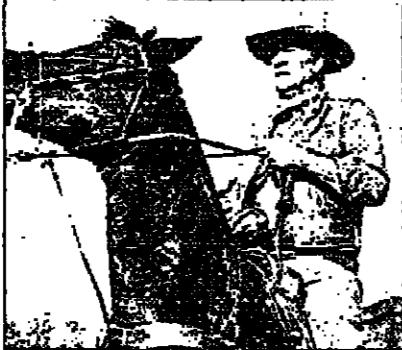
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## BBC 1

- 9.45 Through the Garden Gate, Dennis Cornish visits gardens in Devon (r) 9.15 Celtic Quest; Rosemary Harriet explores St. Wilfrid's Crypt at Hexham Abbey
- 10.00 Remember, Remember. A review of the debate on how history should be taught in the light of the new national curriculum (r); Wales: 10.00-12.30pm See You Sunday
- 10.25 You Are What You Eat: Go with the Grain, Advice on healthy eating (r)
- 10.50 You and You: You and Your Nationality. How the advent of the single European market in 1992 will affect Britain's national identity and sovereignty (r)
- 11.25 A Way with Numbers. The programme for adults who want to improve their maths
- 11.50 Help Your Child with Reading. Maggie Philbin examines the help available to children with severe reading difficulties (r)
- 12.05 See Hear!
- 12.30 Country File. Viewers can vote for their favourite photographs in the Radio Times/Country File photo competition, and the winner of the safari holiday in Kenya will be announced. Wales: Farming in Wales: 12.55 Weather
- 1.00 News with Meriel Stuart, followed by On the Record. John Nettleton reports from the meeting of the European Community nations in Rome
- 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition. (Ceefax)
- 3.00 Film: Chisum (1970). John Wayne as the New Mexico cattle baron John Chisum, defending his territory against a powerful and corrupt businessman. Meandering and undemanding, it makes ideal Sunday afternoon viewing. Co-stars Forest Tucker, Ben Johnson and Christopher George. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen. (Ceefax)
- 4.50 The Clothes Show, Selina Scott, Jeff Banks, Cary Franklin and Sheryl Simms talk to people involved in The Clothes Show Live exhibition at Birmingham's NEC.



Territorial defence: John Wayne (3.00pm)

## BBC 2

- 7.30 Children's BBC Two: King Rollie, Cartoon (r) 7.35 Playdays (r) 7.55 Is That a Fact? The Legend of the Bigland and the Key (r) 8.10 Pinocchio, Cartoon 6.30 Movable Feasts. Children's multi-series: 8.45 Little Bits, Cartoon 9.10 Corncobs. With Sophie Aldred and Stephen Johnson (r) 9.30 Disney's The Little Mermaid, Dragons, Cartoon 9.55 Blue Peter, Omnibus 10.40 Maid Marian and Her Merry Men. Children's comedy, written by Tony Robinson (r) 11.10 Boxpoxes 11.50 The Valdies
- 12.00 Return of the parliamentarian week: Wales: See Hear! Northern Ireland: Raw
- 12.30 Scrutiny. Ian MacWhirter reports on the work of parliamentary committees (Ceefax)
- 1.00 Over in Four. The magazine programme about disability. With sign language and subtitles (r)
- 1.30 Film: Villa Max (1969). Peter Ustinov, in rumbustious form and sporting a superb thick accent, stars as a modern-day Mexican general attempting to recapture the Alamo as a tourist attraction for his homeland. Fifty-five amusing comedy which too often misses the mark. Directed by Jerry Paris
- 3.00 One World, One Voice. This award-winning conception of former 10CC

1.00am Frank Sinatra - At 75 2.00 Quiz Night 2.30 Film: Deadly Nightshade 3.40 News of the Week 4.10-5.00 The ITV Chart Show

## HTV WEST

As HTV West except: 12.30pm The Spectacular World of Garry Marshall 12.55-1.00

HTV Newsweek 5.05-6.00 Highway to Heaven 6.00-7.00 Coronation Street 7.20-8.00 Days of Our Lives 8.30-9.00 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd, More Adventures with Blair Brown as the American real-estate agent. Northern Ireland: Ulster in Focus

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 1990

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THE TIMES

# SPORT

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## SUMMARY Fighting back



ALMOST a year has passed since Mike Tyson (above) lost the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world to James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo but the memory of that defeat still haunts a boxer who, until then, had seemed invincible.

Tonight in Atlantic City, Tyson takes another step along the road to recovering the title when he meets Alex Stewart, who was born in London but is based in the United States. Full preview ..... Page 28

### RUGBY UNION

#### Ill fortune

LONDON'S hopes of winning rugby union's divisional championship for a third successive year were improved when today's opponents, the Midlands, lost two players to illness and injury. The two unbeaten teams meet at the Stoop Memorial ground while North take on the South and South-West ..... Page 29

### SKIING

#### Downhill start



THE men's downhill World Cup season begins in Val d'Isere today with a host of newcomers seeking to fill the void left by Pirmin Zurbriggen's retirement. Meanwhile, in the French resort of Tignes, Jilly Curry (above), of Britain, was lying third in a women's freestyle event. Reports ..... Page 26

### FOOTBALL

#### Rising force

THE rise of Leeds United has more than a little to do with one player, Gordon Strachan. On the day Strachan's new club meets his old, Manchester United, Clive White considers the continuing influence of an evergreen talent ..... Page 27

### GOLF

#### Cutting it fine

THE two leading players in the world, Greg Norman and Nick Faldo, narrowly avoided missing the cut after the second round of the Australian Classic tournament in Melbourne yesterday. After a round of 73, Norman is seven shots behind the leader, Greg Turner, of New Zealand, with Faldo a further two shots adrift ..... Page 28

### YACHTING

#### Conner's view



DENNIS Conner (above), the American skipper, is preparing for the next America's Cup in San Diego next March but he does not expect the British to be among his closest rivals ..... Page 29

### RACING

#### Ticket to ride

TODAY The Times offers readers the chance to win luxury trips to visit to two of the most enjoyable days of the racing calendar - the Rank Holiday Festival at Kempton Park on December 26 and 27. Competition ..... Page 30

# England win has limited appeal

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
PERTH

ANY success, it is said, provides comfort and confidence for a team in the tests. But only by a very liberal interpretation of the theory could England gain any satisfaction from yesterday's undignified scramble to beat New Zealand in the World Series Cup.

This was a one-day game so utterly devoid of distinguished batting that the 8,000 crowd filed away from the WACA ground in a bemused silence, doubtless wondering what had possessed them to squander their Friday evening on such third-rate entertainment.

England will correctly point to their notably improved bowling and fielding which created the winning position in this, their second World Series game. But, faced with the equivalent of an open goal, England hit both posts and the crossbar before bundling the ball apologetically into the net.

The margin was four wickets, with 6.1 overs to spare, but this tells nothing of the tormented fumbling of a team which had forgotten how to win, narrowly avoiding complete embarrassment against a team which does not even expect to win.

New Zealand, post-Hadlee, are a sadly inadequate side. England are a side playing sadly inadequate cricket. The distinction is a fine one and would probably have been lost on the neutrals in the crowd as they saw England, batte under the superb Perth floodlights, evidently doing their best to upstage the shortcomings of their mildly astonished opponents.

There were some extenuating circumstances. The pitch was not ideal, offering an irregular bounce through which two New Zealanders, Jones and Ian Smith, sustained finger injuries. The white balls, kept new by the policy of using one at each end, swung appreciably throughout the game. There was also some demanding bowling. None of this, however, can fully excuse such hapless batting by two international teams.

New Zealand, from a promising 94 for two, lost their next six wickets for 34 runs in 15 overs. England, a target of 159 apparently a formality as they reached 72 without loss, then declined to a perilous 129 for six before the lifeboat was steered home by a highly responsible innings from Alec Stewart and a grimly determined one from Gladstone Small.

Stewart was named man of the match for his unbeaten 29. A more honest appraisal of this game would have had the award cancelled through a lack of serious candidates.

What this game did instruct was that England, even this desperately ordinary England, will surely find their way into the finals of the competition. New Zealand's accomplished batsmen are failing them and they rely unhealthily on two bowlers, Morrison and Watson, both of whom performed outstandingly yesterday. They surprised themselves by beating England once, and although limited-overs cricket will inevitably throw up the occasional anomaly, it would be cause for a steward's enquiry if they managed to finish above England after the qualifying games.

Lewis was both quick and skilful, Fraser and Small like well-oiled machines. England looked sharp in the field, with Russell taking two agile catches, and for a change they were well inside the deadline for completing the 50 overs.

The policy of opening with two

on the trophy even now. England confront them for the first time tomorrow, and if Alister Border was watching last night's contest it is doubtful whether his sleep will be disturbed by the prospect.

It was not an exclusively gloomy night for the touring team. Having made one curious selection decision by dropping Atherton, they made a more logical one by omitting Malcolm. Bucknell and Tuftell, therefore, made their international debuts together, and both can be proud of their initial efforts.

Bucknell, swinging the new ball consistently, began with the important wicket of Wright, caught at slip off the outswinger, and later added Smith, who batted on in obvious agony after having his right index finger broken by Lewis. He did not keep wicket and may take no further part in the tournament.

Tuftell, summoned at a critical point with Crowe and Greatbatch going along easily, bowled his ten overs straight through and kept his nerve enough to bowl genuinely slowly, his flight a delightful contrast to the drearily fast offerings of Hemmings, which thankfully may now be a thing of the past.

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Tuftell, summoned at a critical point with Crowe and Greatbatch going along easily, bowled his ten overs straight through and kept his nerve enough to bowl genuinely slowly, his flight a delightful contrast to the drearily fast offerings of Hemmings, which thankfully may now be a thing of the past.

Lewis was both quick and skilful, Fraser and Small like well-oiled machines. England looked sharp in the field, with Russell taking two agile catches, and for a change they were well inside the deadline for completing the 50 overs.

The policy of opening with two

on the trophy even now. England confront them for the first time tomorrow, and if Alister Border was watching last night's contest it is doubtful whether his sleep will be disturbed by the prospect.

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# University sticks by its principles to a degree

Oxford go into the annual University match at Twickenham on Tuesday knowing that they are underdogs, yet with an undercurrent of pride that they are upholding one important principle of selection. It has to be asked, however, whether the stance is worth it in the light of the expedient abandoning of other principles.

I doubt if Bowring, the sponsor, is much bothered either way. The televised match is a sell-out, and commands the attention of much of the rugby world. Neither are Oxford senior tutors too bothered — apart from those with a direct interest such as Dr Alan Taylor, Oxford's president because they are predominantly uncaring or simply ignorant of the event's existence.

Much of the sporting community, inside and outside Oxford, welcomed the counter-revolution

against interference within the club by a handful of Australians and an American. Yet the match, far from being a contest between ambitious undergraduates, in spite of the counter-revolution, is still a kind of exhibition between visiting postgraduates and foreigners. As the Rugby Football Union (RFU) repeatedly complains, the match has no more bearing on the development of English, or university, rugby than a Barbarians fixture, however competitively it may be played.

This year, there are some two dozen postgraduates among the 30 players, and enough foreigners for Mark Egan, Oxford's captain from Dublin, appropriately to label his team "cosmopolitan". It is not known whether his third-year postgraduate cleric, Stileman, at least who played for Cambridge in 1985, has religious conviction that his place would



## COMMENT

DAVID MILLER  
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

not more deservedly, go to an undergraduate.

The issue at stake is simple: for whose benefit is the match played? There is only one fact on which we can be certain. It is not played for the benefit of those for whom it was originally intended, undergraduates in their first four years of residence.

This year's particular Oxford controversy is an echo of that in the Boat Race three years ago, when a similar mutiny by Americans was overthrown and Oxford staged a memorable

victory among the survivors. Egan will be hoping for similar fortune on Tuesday. However, the over-age factor repetitively arises in rowing and rugby and will always be contentious.

Dr Taylor points out that 30 per cent of Oxford undergraduate students are now postgraduate, and that this figure will grow. "It's an international university," he says. "Why don't we restrict it to British students, the RFU may ask. Well, what we are doing is developing the under-21 side."

That is only part consolation for the more genuine team, whose

fixture is played at the Harlequins ground the same morning. The universities are pressing Twickenham to accept the curtain-raiser on their pitch, but have agreed not to push for this until after the World Cup next year.

Dr Taylor denies that potential Oxford undergraduate students are likely to be diverted, by the presence of postgraduates, to other universities such as Durham or Loughborough. The under-21 teams, he suggests, are a stepping stone to international rugby just as much as the senior match has always been.

But what of the move by the Oxford committee and by Egan, the new captain in the spring, to prevent the team being professionalised by foreigners? Some would claim that it already was, by the mere fact of their importation; and that one degree more

professional was neither here nor there.

However, the committee wanted to prevent the club being taken over by any particular captain, foreign or otherwise, especially one introducing outside professional coaching, as did Brian Smith, the Australian stand-off half and last year's captain. It was beside the point that he lost.

Imported foreign players, and especially Americans, tend not to understand the ethics of Oxbridge sport. They arrive as mature adults, and see the situation as nothing more than a sporting exercise that they can sort out in a month. In rowing, and now rugby, some Americans at Oxford have discovered that this is not so.

Egan has proved himself an able and popular captain. He dropped the aggrieved Smith —

for arriving late for training, allegedly because of a tutorial — and he led his side on a highly successful tour of Japan.

In spite of a continuing problem at stand-off half in Smith's absence, sufficient confidence has been maintained this autumn for Oxford to consider that they will give the opposition a run for their money on Tuesday.

The rise in professional attitudes is regretted by Dr Taylor, a former Bracknell half back who played for the Greyhounds, — the Oxford second XV — but he thinks the trend is inevitable if Oxbridge rugby is to stay in touch with the first-class game. "You've got to be committed in strategy and detail," he says. "I'm not sure I like it even at international level, but the tendency is not going to go away."

Bishop and Ambrose cause havoc as Pakistan are trapped on a bad pitch of their own making

## West Indies are poised to win series

From JOHN WOODCOCK IN LAHORE

THE third Test match between Pakistan and West Indies, and the series with it, was virtually decided here yesterday in an atmosphere of profound anticlimax. In reply to West Indies' first-innings total of 294, Pakistan made 93 for six, a position from which there is no realistic chance of their recovering.

To some extent Pakistan are being hoist with their own petard. Told to provide a pitch which would take spin and guarantee a result, the groundsman simply went too far. By the time Pakistan came to go in yesterday morning it was already breaking up. With a couple of dubious umpiring decisions accounting for two of their first five batsmen, they were 56 for five before Haynes had even to make a change of bowlers.

Rather than being hamstrung by the conditions, the West Indies fast bowlers produced an increasing number of unplayable balls, the last of which, just as bad light was about to stop play, disposed of Imran, caught off a glove, when he and Wasim Akram had added a bravely determined 45 and been together for 15 overs.

With Pakistan needing only two more runs to avoid the follow-on, they will have a chance to get a little of their own back when West Indies bat again today, though I do not see them bowling as effectively as Bishop and Ambrose did yesterday.

For fear of even having to make 70 or 80 in the fourth innings, Haynes was not, in fact, intending to put Pakistan back in. On Thursday the pitch had played fairly well. By last night it had become

something of a curiosity, to judge from the way the West Indians were examining it. The ball off which Imran was caught at short leg reared almost vertically, reviving memories of Brisbane in the days of its sticky dogs.

The start had again been delayed, this time for 45 minutes, while the sun burnt off another heavy dew. Being Friday, the week's holiest day, the lunch interval was then extended to 90 minutes, to allow for prayers, and when the twilight brought the day to a close only 45 overs had been bowled.

Brilliantly though he had played in the first two Tests, this was not Salim Malik's scene. After one lovely cover drive, he edged Bishop to third slip. Between lunch and tea three wickets fell for 40 runs in 25 overs. Whereas at Karachi, when the series started, the West Indian fast bowlers seldom had more than one slip, now they had three slips, a gully, a short leg and a silly point.

But Imran held them off for an hour, and three-quarters, and Wasim Akram, although he could have been out a dozen times, has been in for nearly as long. If, as seems the case, the toss decided the match, it is better that West Indies, as the visiting side, should have won it. Pakistan are more capable than most of winning Test matches on merit rather than trying to get their pitches to do for them.

By luncheon yesterday not even 90 minutes of the most intensive supplication could, I think, have held up the West Indians for long. Already Shoaib and Ammer Malik had been bowled by Bishop. Shoaib, by a real beauty that moved from leg to off and Ammer by one that went the other way. Being on the back foot and with the ball well up to him, Shoaib had no chance; Aamer, though forward, left just enough daylight between bat and pad for the ball to squeeze through. It was splendid bowling.

The best crowd of the series — it might have touched 7,000 at one stage — were made to suffer a painful afternoon. Pakistan might have known that it was not to be their day on hearing that Rameez Raja had had his car written off by a bus on his way to the ground, and been badly enough shaken himself not to be sent in first. As if that was not enough, after he had gone in at the fall of the second wicket and batted stoutly for 50 minutes, he was dismayed to be given out, caught at short leg also off an Ambrose lifer.

In five Test innings, batting at No. 3, the 19-year-old Zahid Fazal has only once got to the wicket later than the second over, and never with more than 15 runs on the board. A much rougher bap-

pears. In the first Test, he was only 10, and in the second, 12. In the third, he was 13. In the fourth, he was 14. In the fifth, he was 15. In the sixth, he was 16. In the seventh, he was 17. In the eighth, he was 18. In the ninth, he was 19. In the tenth, he was 20. In the eleventh, he was 21. In the twelfth, he was 22. In the thirteenth, he was 23. In the fourteenth, he was 24. In the fifteenth, he was 25. In the sixteenth, he was 26. In the seventeenth, he was 27. In the eighteenth, he was 28. In the nineteenth, he was 29. In the twentieth, he was 30. In the twenty-first, he was 31. In the twenty-second, he was 32. In the twenty-third, he was 33. In the twenty-fourth, he was 34. In the twenty-fifth, he was 35. In the twenty-sixth, he was 36. In the twenty-seventh, he was 37. In the twenty-eighth, he was 38. In the twenty-ninth, he was 39. In the thirtieth, he was 40. In the thirty-first, he was 41. In the thirty-second, he was 42. In the thirty-third, he was 43. 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The inspirational footballer who is enjoying an Indian summer in the winter of his career

# What makes Strachan run and run

THE question, Howard Wilkinson said, was not so much "How does he keep on doing it?" as "Why shouldn't he keep on doing it?" Presumably, Gordon Strachan's longevity was taken for granted the day he joined Leeds United and agreed to try to help revive the fortunes of a club on which the rigours of life had taken their toll.

"I'm sure Gordon would acknowledge the fact that with the benefit of all the information we've got these days", the Leeds manager said, "it shouldn't be a surprise that footballers of his age [Strachan is 34 in February] are still performing. But it is. Physiologically, there aren't that many reasons why 30 should be for whom the bell tolls." Wilkinson sees no reason why Strachan should not go on playing at the highest level until he is 38.

Somehow one doubts whether such words of encouragement for one of football's evergreens got much of an airing in the transfer discussions of 20 months ago when Wilkinson agreed to take Strachan off Alex Ferguson's hands for £300,000. The Manchester United manager has since felt the odd pang of remorse over that decision. It is nothing like as acute as the pain he will suffer today should Strachan, the inspirational force of Leeds, orchestrate a victory on his first return to Old Trafford.

To be fair to Ferguson, he and Strachan had probably gone as far as they could as manager and player together. In more than eight years at

**CLIVE WHITE**

two clubs, they have collected a stack of silverware, including the Cup Winners' Cup, which they won while at Aberdeen, but perhaps the ability to motivate each other had worn thin. Leeds provide Strachan with a new challenge: to make them great again.

The captaincy has provided Strachan with another incentive. He had lived for too long in the shadow of Bryan Robson. Wilkinson compared it to a marriage in which one partner was excessively dominant: Strachan needed to get out and be his own man again if his career was to have its Indian summer. He believed that the responsibility of captaincy had added 10 to 15 per cent to his game.

But none of this would have been possible without the basic requisite of good fitness. Strachan said that he had always trained hard even in his formative years at Dundee where he went "to all the wrong places at all the wrong times". For the last 10 years he has progressively taken greater care of his body. He knows that if he eats well, sleeps well and trains well he can go into a match with a clear conscience.

Like any self-respecting Scot, he eats his porridge every morning, aware of its carbohydrate value. He takes note, too, of what his fellow athletes are eating and ever since he

saw Ivan Lendl munching a banana between games he has stuck those in his porridge. "It's not a ridiculous diet," he said. "It's just being sensible, really."

Three years ago Bobby Charlton put him on to a Norwegian who specialises in acupressure — acupuncture without the needles. "There's a flow of energy through the body that just needs to be balanced. So if a particular muscle feels tired, he just works on it with finger pressure. I can do a bit myself before games. Mind you, I get some weird looks."

How much good all this, not forgetting the seaweed tablets, has done him he cannot say for sure, but psychologically at least he knows he feels better for it and that in two years he has not missed a game. He certainly looks good on it, as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as when the "wee man" with the mop of red hair first scampered down that right wing 17 years ago.

He refuses to comment on his form, which has been outstanding this season, or compare with before other than to say that he is enjoying his football as much as ever. "I've not changed my style, which is reassuring. Somebody once said that when you get to 30 you'll be able to play in and down the wing for you. I thought that sounded nice. But I get more enjoyment coming off a wing as a winger and feeling shattered.



Strachan: fresh incentives

"It's really all down to hard work and a love of the game. I keep trying to explain this to the younger boys, like Speed and Batty. It's not just Saturday's game; they should be training for now, but also the one 10 years from now. They've got to do as much as they can because they'll find the benefit in later years."

As someone who wants to have no regrets about himself, it frustrates him when others do not realise their full potential. One senses that David Batty, who has been included in the England B squad to play Algeria next week, might be a case in question.

"He's a weird character. In training, he's terrible. He mucks about. Once the game starts, though, he's

buzzing everywhere. He's been compared to Johnny Giles and Billy Bremner. I call him Billy Giles. He can pass, tackle and head. Once he starts scoring, he'll be even better. He's lucky enough to have all these qualities. Whether he uses them properly is up to him."

Arguably the most exciting mid-field in the country is completed by Gary Speed and Gary McAllister, who by coincidence has taken over Strachan's right wing slot in the Scotland team, though Strachan believes that Scotland will be better served by playing him in the middle. As for his own international aspirations, they have been well sated by 43 caps, more than he thought he would have won as a 17-year-old in two World Cups. "It would be greedy to want more," he said.

He flitted just once with the idea of a move abroad and a deal was almost concluded with Lens, the French club, before he went to Elland Road. "I decided that I needed a cameraderie around me; I think you need to be a special type of person to go abroad, single-minded like Archibald and Souness. I need a laugh and a joke to keep me going. I'd be scared. Soon as you get there and take your trousers off somebody might start laughing and you can't understand why."

So the question, "Gordon, whaur's yer trousers?" must remain one of the great imponderables of our time.

## No deserting Desert Orchid

**LAURA THOMPSON**

a lot about racing. They know how far that horse likes to run; they talked to Jenny Pitman's stable lad on the phone that morning; they have read the *Sporting Life* every day for the last hundred years. What amazes me is that they have time for other things, like breathing. But there they were, just as I had imagined they would be.

Despite the fact that I myself did not present the aspect that I had hoped (hip flask; binoculars; hat), National Hunt was satisfactorily full of people who looked exactly like that (perhaps not the hip flask). Having previously only attended dietitian meetings like Royal Ascot, I found the knowledgeable and prosaic sense of purpose invigorating. It would have been even more marked, I suspect, had Desert Orchid not been running that day.

The paddock is marvellously intimate at Sandown and I was concerned about getting close enough to see this horse. Would it be like getting to the front at a Rolling Stones concert, where I arrived three hours early in order to be sure of my place? Desert Orchid's race was at 2.30; perhaps if I got to the paddock at 1.50? Yes, that was really what I did. I missed the 2.0 race, stood there with another lone sentimentalist, and awaited the grey horse.

At around 2.15, grown men began loping toward the paddock. They studied their racecards and *Sporting Lifes* and pretended that they were there for a bit of a joke — "We'll have a look at the old boy... where is he, then?" As the other four horses gravely described their circles and the air of expectation thickened (just like waiting for Jagger), a man next to me began a soliloquy. "Here he is... he's coming. Here he comes. No... yes. That's him. He's coming. Here he is"; and there he was, with his white limbs and great black eyes, and all the people around the paddock began to cheer and applaud.

A blow for reality having been struck, I arrived, hatless, at Sandown where the first hat that I saw was John McCririck's. From his television appearances, I had assumed that McCririck would look like a man in a *Punch* cartoon, circa 1980 ("Oo told 'im to place that wager? — Ay did"); in fact, with his pink baseball cap, long hair, little glasses, fistful of rings and orange trousers, he looked more like a member of the entourage of some rock band prominent in the late 1960s — perhaps one of Frank Zappa's soundmen. He was standing around the bookmakers, being recognised, gleaning info.

The amount of information that bookmakers can hold in their brains renders me quite bemused: I can tell you the murderer in every single Agatha Christie but that is finite and concrete knowledge. Racing knowledge is never-ending and ultimately requires that one make a subjective judgment (something which, in sport, I am too scared to do), although, of course, the subjective judgment has first to be percolated through a good many opinions. As with those who voted in the Conservative leadership ballot, so with those who place bets: everyone is watching everyone else.

But people who know a lot about racing really do know

### MOTOR SPORT

## Three-man consortium takes control at Lotus

By JOHN BLUNSDEN

THE anticipated restructuring of Team Lotus International before the 1991 season was confirmed yesterday by Tony Rudd the chairman, in a statement released from Ketteringham Hall, the team's Norfolk headquarters.

Under the new arrangements operational control will pass into the hands of a consortium comprising Peter Collins, formerly the team manager for Benetton, Peter Wright, the grand-effects specialist who has been managing director of Lotus Engineering since 1988, and Horst Schubert, the German team entrant.

For both Collins and Wright it marks a return to the team with which they served as assistant team manager and suspension specialist, respectively.

Further details relating to the 1991 season, including the source of new sponsorship, will be revealed shortly, but the team has already announced one of its 1991 drivers. He is Mika Hakkinen, the Finnish driver, aged 22, who recently secured the 1990 British Formula Three championship with the West Surrey Racing team after a season in which he contested 20 races, winning 11 and starting from pole position 13 times.

However, it is believed that the new-look Lotus team will provide the opportunity for Schubert to renew an old relationship with Enrique Scalabroni, the chassis designer.

The widely respected Argentinian was responsible for the Dallara cars which Schubert ran for Schneider when he won the 1987 German Formula Three championship, and he has since worked on the design staff for both the Williams and Ferrari teams.

## Arsenal hoping that plastic makes for a perfect turnaround

By CLIVE WHITE

JUST two weeks ago and with 12 minutes of their game against Queen's Park Rangers remaining, Arsenal were staring at defeat and, as far as they knew, an 11-point deficit to Liverpool to boot. Arsenal recovered to win, Liverpool faltered to draw and the championship race, which had looked all but over, was suddenly a two-horse race again.

By the end of this afternoon, the extraordinary turnaround in fortunes, given extra propulsion by Arsenal's 3-0 victory over Liverpool last Sunday, could be complete; if Liverpool lose to Nottingham Forest at the City Ground and Arsenal beat Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, the London club will go top on goal average.

It is hardly an improbable sequence of events for a team, who two seasons ago needed to win 2-0 at Anfield on the last day of the season to pip Liverpool for the championship and did so with virtually the last kick of the match. Then again, Arsenal have never won on the Kenilworth Road plastic, which was where they suffered their last league defeat in April, and

by playing a four-man defence with O'Leary sweeping and Lee Dixon pushed into midfield. Either way, Elstrup believed Arsenal would find it tough going, holding on to the only unbeaten record in the first division.

"On our pitch you have to play a close-passing game, delivering the ball to feet, and I don't think that, is their style," he said.

Forest will need to improve somewhat on last week's home draw against Luton if they are, unintentionally, to do Arsenal any favours. Steve Hodge, one of the most influential players, is again unavailable with a calf strain.

Steve McMahon, who missed the match at Highbury through injury, is expected to return for a Liverpool side always at its most dangerous on the rebound from defeat.

Brian Clough, who has had more success against Liverpool than any other living manager, knows what to expect.

"I have been tackling them as a player and a manager for 35 years and all I know is I am up against the same thing this time as the first time — another tough game," he said.

McMahon could satisfy his own requirements and those of the David O'Leary fan club by standing third to Chelsea's ninth.

Tottenham Hotspur's second match of the season was a 0-0 draw with Sunderland, while Paul Gascoigne, having had a bout of the mid-field before being pursued by the team bus by a sizeable squad of adoring girls, who emerged 2-1 winners, rank outsiders. This afternoon they meet again, at Stamford Bridge, with Palace exceeding expectations by standing third to Chelsea's ninth.

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Their performance has been patchy all season, with a few moments of magic, such as the 2-0 win over Liverpool, but the team has been let down by poor finishing and lack of discipline.

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The leading second division match pair West Ham United with Portsmouth at Fratton Park, where the visitors will be out to complete a 20-match unbeaten League sequence.

### TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

#### Barclays League

##### First division

###### Aston Villa v Man City

Daley (eye) is doubtful for Villa. Casciaro leads the attack in place of Oneyed Cisse. City continue in central defence. City choose between Dibble and Corón, who is fit again, in goal. Allen (chickenpox) is absent; Clarke, returns to the squad after a loan spell at Shrewsbury.

###### Luton v Arsenal

Hughes has fitness test for Luton this morning. Reiss stands by. Arsenal must decide whether to retain O'Leary as a sweeper or reintroduce Groves.

###### Nottingham Forest v Liverpool

With Hodge (calf) still absent, Forest are unchanged. McMahon is fit again and returns to fitness and returns to Liverpool.

###### Everton v Coventry

Watson and Waterson welcome Falco after injury but Ferguson, McDonald, Ferdinand and Channing are still unfit. On-loan Caesar continues in defence.

#### Tottenham v Sunderland

Webb replaces injured incisive and Soddy (shin) passes a fitness test. Tottenham will field the side which drew 0-0 at Roker Park in August. Van den Hauwe, Thomas or Tutte will deputise.

Sunderland are unchanged for the fourth successive time.

#### Second division

###### Leicester v Oldham

With Peake (stomach) and James (knee) unfit, Leicester recall Spearling and Hill. Oldham replace Adams with Holden.

###### Middlesbrough v West Brom

Philips (ankle) faces a late test for Boro. West Brom are without Bradley (influenza); Hodson (knee) is fit again; McEvoy (hamstring) and Goodman (calf) await fitness tests, but Strooder has recovered from foot poisoning.

###### Portsmouth v West Ham

Bennett is back in the Pompey side. Pompey are unchanged. Dicks (knee) is still absent for West Ham, who are also without Keenan (stomach). Gale returns to the Conference.

###### Wimbledon v QPR

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By WALTER GAMMIE

WCYCOMBE Wanderers put on sale 4,200 tickets for today's FA Cup second round tie against Peterborough on Wednesday evening last week. Within two-and-a-half hours they had sold out.

"We could have filled the ground twice," John Goldsworthy, the club secretary, said. "People have been ringing and writing in and a lot have been coming into the ground this week and been quite angry to find out there were no more tickets."

The townpeople have been eager all season to embrace the club and its exciting new ground, Adams Park. The pristine facilities have been matched under the positive direction of Martin O'Neill, the former Northern Ireland international.

He said: "It is one of those managers who have a lot of fun on the bench, a bit like Kenny Dalglish. He's very animated and I think they feel he's practically one of them and they have accepted him."

O'Neill, who won 64 caps for Northern Ireland and played a leading part in Nottingham Forest's success under Brian Clough, has thrown himself wholeheartedly behind Whitley's cause.

He suffered rebuffs when trying to gain a job in management in the League but enjoyed two successful years with Grantham, during which he unearthed Gary Crosby, winner sold to Nottingham Forest before stepping up to the GM Vauxhall Conference club.

O'Neill says his aim is to generate a sense of enjoyment amongst his players. He has undoubtedly admiration for their

ability. "There are four or five players here who would do well at a League club." Equally, as a full-time manager, he respects the way they combine jobs outside the game with achieving high levels of performance on the field: "The difficulty is that we don't practise every day, just two nights a week, with a game on Saturday. My job as manager is to instill confidence into them."

A mark of how well he had done that job was an admission that the defeat by Kidderminster, not helped by an early injury to John Granville, the goalkeeper, might have been a good thing. "Certainly, there was a feeling within the club that we had to do was put on the jerseys and take three points when we played here."

Whitley's task, however, offers different rewards. O'Neill, acknowledging the freshness that he brought to radio commentary, given up to devote himself to Wycombe, says: "It's like our moment of glory. It's every non-League side's dream to get as far as they can in the Cup, to draw a Liverpool, Tottenham or Arsenal."

"It's as important to us as the players at Everton, say, before a semi-final. We have played an awful lot of games to get here and we should thrive on the occasion."

Over Cardiff City in a first round replay returns to Bournemouth with a point to prove. He failed to make it as a professional after a run in the youth side.

Injuries have plagued the preparations of Barnet, the second-placed side in the GM Vauxhall Conference, before their home match with Northampton Town, the fourth division leaders. Hakan Hayrettin came into the side for Wayne Turner.

Leek, who won 2-0 at Scarborough in their first round appearance in the first round, play Chester City at home with Neil Baker, the manager, saying: "

# Stewart is two small steps short of a big upset



FROM SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
ATLANTIC CITY

MIKE Tyson sets out tonight on the second stage of his journey to reclaim the undisputed world heavyweight title he lost in Tokyo 11 months ago.

He hopes that a quick disposal of Alex Stewart, a Londoner from Shepherd's Bush, will go some way to wiping out the memory of the humiliation he lost in Tokyo 11 months ago.

Nothing pains Tyson more than questions about Tokyo. He turns his head like Gort in the film, *The Day the Earth Stood Still*, to say: "You know when you ask me these questions I cannot articulate the situation. I'm a champion. Being a champion is a frame of mind. I'll always be a champion, for a long time."

"Regardless of what you think about Douglas, Douglas is not going to be remembered as a guy who upset Mike Tyson, he is going to be remembered for the guy who quit against Holyfield."

"People say you learn from your mistakes. You learn but you never dwell on it. If you have that block will you never get past that block?"

To help erase the memory, a

television commercial links Tyson with Freddie Kruger, the man in *Nightmare on Elm Street*, who always comes back to terrorise. "Pray for Alex Stewart," intones an American version of the voice of Valentine Dyall. Compounding the horror, Tyson told a press conference: "If I don't kill him, it doesn't count."

To blur the memory further, Tyson and Don King, his promoter and adviser, appear on a film by Spike Lee that opens up wounds of the black-white conflict in America, with King stating the case of the black American who was sorry his head broke the white man's shiny stick. So offensive is it that it would not be shown in Britain for fear of inciting a riot. Ros Greenburg, the producer of the Home Box Office film, admitted cheerfully that it might include "rednecks to throw bricks at the television".

But Bill Cayton, the estranged manager of Tyson, said: "I hate man [King] has brainwashed the kid, it is a racist movie. You would not think that a white person discovered Tyson and taught him to box, a white man took him into his home as a son and a white woman loved him and a white trainer trained him and two white managers made him a world champion."

## Tale of the tape

Type	Stewart
Age	26
Weight	165lb
Height	6ft 2in
Reach	75in
Chest	
Normal	42½in
Expanded	44in
Waists	33in
Forearms	13in
Waist	32in
Thigh	26½in
Calf	17in
Neck	16in
Wrist	7in
Foot	13in
Ankle	12in

RECORDS	
Tyson	38 wins (34 inside the distance), 1 defeat
Stewart	26 wins (28 inside the distance), 1 defeat

But while these tricks might elicit the desired reaction from Cayton, they have not prevented Stewart from focusing on his daunting task. He intends to do a Buster Douglas on Tyson. He is young, ambitious and the coolest boxer I have ever seen."

"I know he's the quickest and most dangerous fighter out there and says he's going to kill me, but what I picked up from watching the Douglas film is that you can hit Tyson," Stewart said. "When he leaps up to get you, that's an excellent chance to throw a punch. You have to hope you're

not hacking up at the time, I have the ability to do damage."

Just in case the public thinks that it was Douglas who showed Stewart the way, his manager, Jim Fennell, said: "Alex was always telling me 'Get me Tyson, get me Tyson' long before Buster Douglas showed the world how to beat him."

Fennell admitted, however, that he had seen tapes of two of Tyson's bouts, the one against Douglas and the other against Larry Holmes. "Yes, believe it or not by Ripley, Larry Holmes," Fennell said. "I know he was a shot fighter and a shadow of the great Larry Holmes but he showed what could be done by giving Tyson angles and jabbing him. If Stewart doesn't give him alleys for two or three rounds, you will see something surprising."

But Art Miles, the trainer of Donovan Ruddock, the one who is really going to show Tyson, said Stewart should allow for two steps that Tyson takes – because he is small – before launching his attack. Miles said: "What you do is wait until you see him take his first step and then decide whether to hit him or move back. If you do that he has to set himself up again. That was what Douglas did, keep making Tyson set

himself up so he can never get going."

Stewart was also saying that he would use his right, just as Douglas did. But Douglas is not only a bigger man than Stewart, he has quicker hands and is a slicker boxer. Stewart is a notoriously slow starter and has slow hands and slow feet. If he throws a big right he could expose himself, just as Tyrell Biggs, Henry Tillman and Frank Bruno did.

Tyson, on the other hand, has looked sharp in training and his conditioning is supported by the fact that he weighed 217lb, a pound lighter than Stewart. His hand speed is bewildering and he is bursting with energy. He admits that against Douglas he was not in the right frame of mind. He is for Stewart.

If Stewart does not manage to shut down the "alleys" to his body and head, it is most likely that the bout will not go more than three or four rounds.

Ricardo Giacchetti, Tyson's trainer, said: "Alex Stewart is going to walk in there and find himself with a situation he has never been in before. Cus D'Amato built an incredible fighting machine and Stewart is going to find himself with the best fighter in the world."



Stewart: slow starter

Tyson: right frame of mind

## Lyle gets back in the swing

From a CORRESPONDENT IN BOPHUTHATSWANA

SECOND ROUND SCORES: 142 D Frost (SA) 71, 143 S Lamey (Gen) 67; J M Coetzee (SA) 71, 144 S Botha (SA) 73; 72, 147 K Green (US) 75, 72 A Lytle (GB) 68, 67, 148 T Simpson (US) 73, 74; 142 T Armour III (US) 61, 71, 150 Gomez (US) 73, 70.

TYSON followed his first round of 80 in the Million Dollar Challenge tournament here with a remarkable 67 yesterday, only two shots more than the record for the event, held jointly by Fuzzy Zoeller and Seve Ballesteros.

Lyle, who had six birdies, putted particularly well, his only major concern at the intervening 18th, a par four. For his approach shot over the lake Lyle was undeterred whether to take a five or six-iron. He hit a five too long and three putted. However, he was still in contention for the biggest first prize in golf.

The overnight leader, Bernhard Langer, maintained his position until the 17th hole where he dropped two strokes to hand the lead to the South African, David Frost who had a 71 for a total of 142.

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## RUGBY UNION

# Midlands hope their back row can limit London's possession

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHATEVER plans the Midlands had made to develop a game away from their back row and scrum half against London when the ADT divisional championship resumes at the Stoop memorial ground today, spluttered to a halt when they lost both their centres. Ian Bates has a groin strain and Tim Buttmore has influenza so the Leicester pair are replaced by Stuart Potter, of Nottingham, and John Thame, of Northampton.

It is a bad blow for the Midlands after their confidence had been lifted by the 34-9 defeat of the South and South-West last weekend. It need not necessarily be fatal because if they are to overturn London's hopes of a third successive championship, it is among the forwards they must do it and I doubt whether Peter Rossborough, their coach, envisaged a game of great breadth, even with his original XV.

Both hookers will enjoy themselves. Brian Moore and John Oliver have swapped divisions this season but it is Oliver who is in favour with the England selectors and it may be significant that London's senior players, Moore among them, have

## TODAY'S TEAMS

At the Stoop Memorial ground

LONDON DIVISION: S Piggott (Wasps); A Harrison; W Clegg (Nottingham); R Hopley (Wasps); E Davis (Harlequins); R Andrew (Wasps); C Lupton (London); B Morris (London); J Probyn (Wasps); D Pease (Harlequins); D Morris (Orrell); S Searle (London); S Sutcliffe (London); S Southern (captain); P Cherry, D Cusack (Orrell); J Howe (West Hartlepool); A Orrell (Orrell); A Macfarlane (Sale).

SOUTH & SOUTH-WEST: S Williams (captain); J Webb; A Scott; J Gaskell; A Addyman (Bath); P Hall (Bristol); M Hamlin (Gloucester); R Hall; V Uzanga; G Davis; R Lee; J Edwards (Bath); R Smith; J Ellington (Northampton); A Robson (captain); S Ojomoh (Bath).

Referee: S Hitchin (London). G Rees

## Saracens ready for Samoans

By DAVID HANDS

THREE teams from the other side of the world will add variety to the scene next week when they make their way through the country en route to the Toulouse centenary tournament: Queensland open against a London Irish Select tomorrow and play Northampton on Tuesday, Western Samoa meet the Saracens on Monday and Wellington arrive at Rosslyn Park on Tuesday.

All the clubs concerned will hope their players survive in today's unpredictable programme. For example, all hope to field Buckton and Clarke against the Samoans under Luton's floodlights if London do not require them for more than the divisional bench the following weekend. In the meantime, Saracens welcome back Peters, the Loughborough University back-row forward, for today's game with Newcastle.

Coxey call on Wilkes to prop against Northampton at Beeston; it will be his 356th game for the club but his first since April last year and in the opposing front row he will encounter the Ward brothers, John and David, appearing together in Northampton's front row for only the second time.

There are fraternal matters in hand at Sutherland, too, where Wasps encounter Headingley. David Andrew returns at scrum half for Headingley and Richard, his brother, is a replacement. Unfortunately the better-known brother, Rob, will not be there to welcome them as he must captain London in the divisional match at the Stoop Memorial ground.

Cox returns to lead Moseley in the dress rehearsal against Bristol for their Pilkington Cup meeting next month; Moseley have not won at the Memorial Ground since 1954.

Yorkshire go into the second round of the ADT county championship with a newcomer, Wright (Middlesbrough) replaces Woodthorpe in the side to play Warwickshire at Nuneaton. Middies, who play Hertfordshire at Croxley Green, make three amendments to the XV that beat Berkshire: Matteson (hooker), Fowler (lock) and White (flanker) are included.

Lancashire, the bolders but beaten by Yorkshire last weekend, introduce Langford and Wellens to their midfield and Carr, the Flyde lock, against North Midland at Orrell. Keegan has recovered from food poisoning to lead North Midlands on what is certain to be a heavy going.

## SNOOKER

## Venue is a drawback for James

By STEVE ACTON

SOME venues, such as the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, and the Guichet, Preston, are redolent of atmosphere and the play often reflects that. The same cannot be said of the Brentwood Centre, Essex, home of the £250,000 Coalite World Matchplay - despite a first prize of £100,000. And yesterday's first round match between Steve James and Terry Griffiths was a case in point.

James, who had lost a 5-1 lead and ultimately the match against Tony Knowles in the

frame on the pink.

Mike Hallett, who was so dispirited with his break into six pieces that he broke it into six pieces, was equally unimpressed with himself as he fell 0-2 behind to Jim Wilkinson.

But after giving himself a talking-to in which he emerged with breaks of 33, 27, 46 and 42, he took 5-1 up.

Modest breaks of 33, 33 and 42 then took him 5-1 up. Griffiths briefly burst into attacking mode with a break of 57 and then secured the eighth

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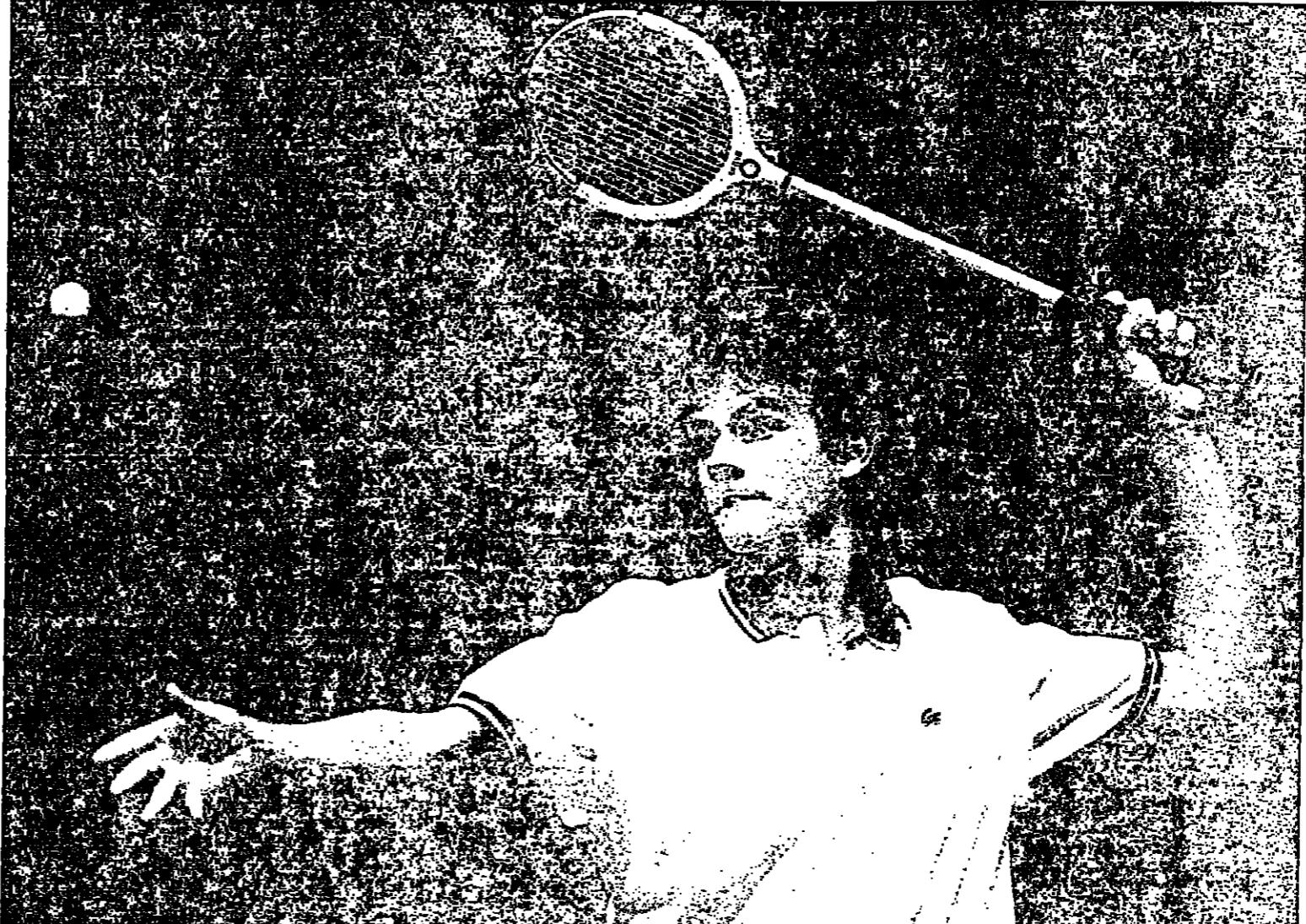
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## Pursuing youngster can see old hands on the horizon

IAN STEWART



Eye on the prize: Mark Hae Williams is working on emulating his father, Charles, a former amateur singles rackets champion

## Maturing early is a question of timing

By SALLY JONES

HUE WILLIAMS JR, one of Britain's brightest rackets prospects, has a trapped nerve in his back and his place at lock goes to his club colleague, Cusack, dropped after the defeat by London. Hespel's bruised hip has not mended sufficiently quickly so another Orrell man, Cusack, makes his divisional debut on the wing. But the North have yet to lose a divisional match to the South-West in six encounters; they will be disinclined to start now.

The North have had their problems too. Kimmings has a trapped nerve in his back and his place at lock goes to his club colleague, Cusack, dropped after the defeat by London. Hespel's bruised hip has not mended sufficiently quickly so another Orrell man, Cusack, makes his divisional debut on the wing. But the North have yet to lose a divisional match to the South-West in six encounters; they will be disinclined to start now.

Hue Williams Jr, whose rose-checked good looks and endearing drawl conceal a fierce determination, acknowledges his debt to his father. "Call him a boyish looking 43 - he'll like that. Seriously though, he's always been amazingly encouraging, getting me started with a cut-down racket the year before I went to Eton and always ready to have a hit with me, even when I was a weedy teenager. He's such a strong character you could have been awestruck when asked to reach his standard but it's never been a fierce rivalry - more a close camaraderie, when we have to play each other."

Charles Hue Williams, a bold and highly successful City whiz-kid, recently resigned from his job with Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bankers, over the ill-starred purchase of an oil company, a reverse which bore with enormous style and good humour. He played rackets still more avidly and (on the day after losing what insiders claim was a stratospheric salary), during a game in which Mark broke a

racket, he jokingly observed, "You'll have to buy your own from now on!"

His son believes the setback brought them still closer. "I was tremendously proud of the way he dealt with losing his job - and I made sure I was there for him. If something goes wrong, someone takes the blame and he did the honourable thing, standing up straight and taking it on the chin."

With a politics degree from Bristol University, Hue Williams Jr is now looking for a career in political consultancy or sports marketing, based in Britain or the US to allow him access to top rackets competition.

He admits that despite the coaching of Norwood Cripps, "the best pro in England", he was a less than promising youngster during his time at Eton, winning none of the schoolboy titles and making his mark at Bristol only after hard training and regular sessions with Shannon Hazell, the Clifton professional and one of the challengers for James' world title in the new year.

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## The race is on to find a winner



**THE Times** today presents the opportunity for a reader and a companion to enjoy a luxury visit to two of the most enjoyable days of the racing calendar — the Rank Holiday Festival at Kempton Park on December 26 and 27.

We have linked with Rank, the sponsor of the two-day meeting, to provide this programme of holiday entertainment. They will join Richard Pitman, the television commentator, at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, on the morning of Boxing Day for a reception before being driven to Kempton Park for lunch and full members' tickets for a grandstand view of the afternoon's racing, including the King George VI Race Steeplechase and Desert Orchid possibly in the field.

After racing, they will return to the Royal Garden for a cocktail party and buffet hosted by Pitman before going on to a West End show (our winner can select from *Miss Saigon*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables* or *Aspects of Love*).

Following an overnight stay and breakfast at the five-star Royal Garden Hotel, our winner will be driven to Kempton for lunch and another afternoon of high-class racing.

To enter the competition, study the questions below, complete the entry form, and send it to: Rank Holiday Festival, Sports Department, **The Times**, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive by Friday, December 14.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct entry drawn from those received by that date.

### THE QUESTIONS

- How many times has Desert Orchid won the King George VI Chase?
- Name the winning rider (above) of Nupsala at the 1987 King George?
- Who is Desert Orchid's sire?
- How many occasions has the Dickinson family trained the winner of the King George?
- How many times did Richard Pitman win the King George as a jockey?

### ENTRY FORM

Name _____	
Address _____	
Telephone _____	
ANSWERS	
1 _____	
2 _____	
3 _____	
4 _____	
5 _____	

### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Rank or its agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence.

### CYCLING

#### Doyle changes event for title defence

TONY Doyle switches from six-day racing tonight to defend his European 80-kilometre madison championship on the 200 metre track at Grenoble where victory would give him a third successive title (Peter Bryan writes).

In the absence of his regular partner, Danny Clark, Doyle is paired with Pier-Angelo Bucquetto, of Italy.

"He's a competent six-day rider," Doyle said, "and I believe that we can make a partnership that will put the pressure on everybody else."

Encore, lives in Grenoble and will keep to perform well in front of his "home" crowd.

The championship counts towards the new winter international points competition which also includes six-day results. Doyle is top of the table with victory in the Munich race, a second at Bordeaux and two fourth places and two fifth positions.

He has a training programme in France before competing in Dortmund on Boxing Day and the last six-day events in Cologne, Brussels, Stuttgart, Antwerp and lastly Copenhagen from February 1 to 6.

# The handicap of a selling plate outlook

**The Zetland report and the withdrawal of the Aga Khan from Britain are the most recent blows to the troubled racing industry. Nick Stewart looks at a sport accused of failing to realise its commercial potential at a time of recession**

In the light of the Bank of Ireland's sudden reversal of its decision to sponsor the 1991 Champion Hurdle, coupled with Sears' and Brooke Bond Oxo's withdrawal of financial support, it might appear that the racing industry has problems beyond the Zetland report. Are there about to be a mass of redundancies, fewer horses in training and fewer race meetings?

Without sponsors, racing would barely survive. More than £9 million of the £22 million prize-money in 1990 was put up by the commercial sector — which, as Barrie Gill, a sponsorship consultant, pointed out at a racing industry seminar at Sandown Park this year, is less than the cost of sponsoring one Formula One motor racing car for one season.

The key point is that cars race all over the world, while the historic insularity of British racing (in terms of attracting overseas owners and their horses) has always put off some major international brands from looking at our domestic racing with a view to spending part of their global marketing in sponsoring major races.

The paradox is that, particularly on the Flat, the Jockey Club and individual racecourses have, via the pattern system, a number of races which should be of international status, yet they manage to secure only a runner or two from France. An entry from Italy, Germany, the United States or Australia is a news item in itself.

It certainly does. Whitbread spends half that sum in allocating prize-money towards the Mackeson Gold Cup and the Whitbread Gold Cup, the bookends of the National Hunt season.

Paul Vaughan, The sponsorship director of Whitbread, has carefully rationalised his allocated racing budget. "Whitbread is fortunate, in one respect, in that we have, through historical reasons, two terrific properties," he said. "Although Mackeson is still the market leader in the sweet stout market, that market has declined dramatically since the 1960s."

"Our day at Cheltenham is the only real marketing support Mackeson now receives, and we have increased our sponsorship with the introduction of other beers in our range taking on other races on the card."

John Vaughan is aware that National Hunt racing offers infinitely better value to a commercial sponsor than the Flat. "I looked at possibly sponsoring the St Leger last year, but declined, on the grounds that the handle, St Leger, was too prominent, and our name would often be left off," he said.

But how would he feel if the race were named the Whitbread Classic? "Yes, well, I would have to consider it, but it won't happen," he said. "It may have to, since research suggests that racing has lagged behind other major domestic sports in not realising its potential in the business world."

Ian Pithers, the marketing director of the Racecourse Association (RCA), the trade association for all 59 racecourses, is adamant that "the past 40 years of neglect is going to have a serious effect in the next few years. We have to offer not only the owner but particularly the racegoer better facilities."

"The extra money from SIS is helping towards this, but asking sponsors for large sums of money to attach their name to traditionally awkwardly titled races which cannot really deliver a return, is going to become a real problem."

Pithers has no brief to sell sponsorships, but the RCA backs up the efforts of the individual racecourses with a brochure on sponsorship, and a newcomer's guide to racing. Although most other major sports in Britain have marketing departments, racing has no central marketing base from which to sell the sport.

David Donald, the sponsorship consultant for Seagram and Whitbread, does not see that this is necessary. "Each course has its own needs, and companies who are interested in sponsoring also have particular requirements. It is a question of matching the sponsor's need to the right course, race and hospitality requirements. The racecourse managers are pretty good at promoting their own days and key events."

They are also prepared to spend large sums to attract sponsors. Fabricius spent £50,000 in marketing alone to sell the Sussex Stakes during 1990. He is now in a "meaningful dialogue with an

international company".

For all the problems that certain courses may have with difficult races in the pattern on the Flat, the forecast for sponsorship overall in racing does not appear all that gloomy.

Edward Gillespie, at Cheltenham, received many enquiries for the Champion Hurdle after the Bank of Ireland pulled out. Sandown Park replaced the Sears group, sponsors of its Spring Bank Holiday meeting, with a new face to racing, the UB group, which increased the sponsorship total.

At the Gimcrack dinner on Tuesday, Lord Hartington, the senior steward at the Jockey Club, will make what will hopefully prove a keynote speech, projecting the short and long-term future of the industry.

He must be aware of the discrepancy that exists in the minds of the business community between National Hunt and Flat racing, in terms of perceived value in sponsorship terms. And yet it is the outwardly-rich relative, Flat racing, which now seeks support from outside its own resources.

The answer to this particular problem is quickly identified. The pattern system has to be overhauled. This need not be to the detriment of the quality, but would encourage exclusivity and therefore more international involvement at the top level.

In addition, there are 1,150 racing fixtures in Britain, none of them run on Sundays. The bet-

ting shops cannot open for evening meetings, so during the summer, midweek racing takes place during the afternoon when most racegoers are at work.

Racing in the 1990s has much to offer both the potential sponsor and the racegoer. In the main, the courses are run by sensible, entrepreneurial managers, who in some cases operate "with one hand tied behind our backs", as one senior member commented.

After all, it is they who see the crowds, the large fields for an innovative race or meeting, and it is they who have seen the changing face of commercial business when married to sport.

A few companies have felt the recession and have withdrawn; some contracts with particular races, which have achieved their aim, have ended.

Peter O'Sullivan, the BBC racing commentator, when asked if sponsorship and racing were beginning to fall out of bed: "The suggestion that sponsorship in racing is withering is unwarranted, inaccurate and from the point of view of the sport, unhelpful."

The key word is unhelpful. While certain courses enjoy fruitful partnerships with sponsors, there is, however, concern both inside and outside the industry that the future for certain types of races is clouded with difficulty. Racing's authorities need to address this area in bold and imaginative terms.

• Nick Stewart is the business development director for Michael Humphreys and Partners, a sports marketing agency.

IAN STEWART

## Llewellyn rides luck on late Gifford booking

By RICHARD EVANS

LADY Luck, rivals the form book when it comes to winning and losing at the racing game. Ask Carl Llewellyn.

The Wantage-based jockey did not have a ride at Cheltenham in the opening race at Cheltenham yesterday until heavy traffic prevented Richard Rowe from getting the time in time to ride Bigorn Hill. Llewellyn stepped into the breach and duly scored his 13th consecutive win on the Josh Gifford-trained horse.

The victory was his sixth in the past ten days — a stark contrast to his dismal fortunes over the past ten months.

A bad fall on Ben Head at Chepstow in February was the start of the bad times when luck deserted him. Hepatitis was diagnosed a few days later.

On his return to the saddle in March, he broke bones above his ankle after a fall from Sunnis at Market Rasen. He was sidelined until the end of August and on his second ride back dislocated an elbow while riding Dromina Star.

Llewellyn, aged 25, began his third comeback of the year three weeks ago and, after a quiet start

while he regained race fitness and confidence, the tide turned. At Towcester, he rides Cona Glen, who provided him with his first winner November 27.

"It is luck. I never thought it was fate. I picked up a winner yesterday through luck. You can fall in love with a horse, get up and walk away one day, another time you fall, nothing kicks you but you break a bone. It is just luck."

John Kavanagh, aged 22, has also learnt about the highs and lows of National Hunt racing in England since moving to Lambourn from Ireland in August. On his first ride in this country, at Southwell on October 13, he got no further than the first fence and ended up very dazed following his fall.

Yesterday, he tasted Cheltenham glory in the day's feature race, the Food Brokers Fisherman's Friend Chase. Master Bob has always been a rather mercurial character, whom Nicky Henderson believed benefited from being held up.

Llewellyn, aged 25, began his third comeback of the year three weeks ago and, after a quiet start

units who would be very hard hit."

Jackson stated: "The RCA is simply not prepared to stand by and allow millions of pounds a year to be lost from the industry over this relatively insignificant problem."

He added: "We have made the strongest possible representations to the Jockey Club on this issue. With the senior steward, Levy Board and Horse Race Advisory Council reinforcing the view that we have a serious financial problem, we feel it would be irresponsible to impose such a burden on our resources at this time."

The RCA is the only organisation that has costed the changes that are being proposed and, frankly, they are horrendous and could not be borne by the courses, particularly the smaller

### Advocating firm policing of stable hygiene standards

RESPONDING to criticism of standards of racecourse stable hygiene, Stanley Jackson, managing director of the Racecourse Association, yesterday said: "I have visited the stable yards at 50 member courses in the last 12 months and I can see nothing basically wrong with racecourse stable hygiene. Firm policing by the Jockey Club of the present instruction would ensure that the standards are maintained."

David Barone continued the success of West Country trainers when South Pool put in a better jump than Royal Cracker at the last fence to win the Kineton Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

No holidays are in prospect for Hopscotch, who recorded her eighth win from nine starts in the Charlton Kings Three-year-Old Novices' Hurdle. The pony, who has proved a bargain for Michael Pipe since being bought at the Ascot sales for £14,000 in April.

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# Golden chance for Al Hashimi

By MANDARIN  
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

THOSE who fancy Al Hashimi's chance of winning the A F Budge Gold Cup at Cheltenham today, as I do, would be well advised to check that Pendennis has already won the Enviroak Handicap Chase at Lingfield.

For the knowledge of a Pendennis victory would bolster the belief that Al Hashimi can land the Cheltenham feature, in the hands of Richard Dunwoody.

Time may show that Al Hashimi was facing an impossible task at Newbury last month when he was asked to give 16lb to Pendennis.

The fact that he finished 20 lengths ahead of the third showed just how hard he tried when going down by 2½ lengths. As Al Hashimi had won easily at Worcester the time before, the reason for that Newbury defeat was the magnitude of his task rather than lack of stamina.



Mitchell: high hopes for Coworth Park

I expect Katabatic, Clever Folly, Cuddy Dale and Pin's Pride to form the nucleus of his opposition today. Although both Katabatic and Clever Folly scored resounding victories at Cheltenham last season, Clever Folly when he collected on the corresponding occasion, I still feel

that Cuddy Dale and Pin's Pride could prove more dangerous.

Last time out, Cuddy Dale was breaching down the necks of Pegwell Bay and Comandante at the end of a memorable race at Huntingdon while Pin's Pride staged a spectacular comeback at Folkestone, having not run since beating Blueberry King over today's course and distance 18 months earlier.

Al Hashimi could be the cornerstone of a four-timer for Dunwoody who will be on the unbeaten Tyrone Bridge in the A F Budge Novices' Hurdle as well as Remaince Man, who surely has to put in only a clear round to win the Charterhouse Mercantile Leisure Novices' Chase.

Later, Al Hashimi's stable companion Another Coral looks good enough to win the George Stevens Handicap Chase.

As Bokaro will also be after a \$100,000 bonus contesting the Mercury Communications

Hurdle for the Sport of Kings challenge, you can bet your bottom dollar that his trainer Charlie Brooks will have spot on for the occasion.

The bonus is on offer for a horse winning at Belmont Park in the United States, as he did in October, and at Cheltenham.

The danger looks to Villa Recos, who ran with great promise on his seasonal debut in the race won by Deep Prospect (2.40). However, Yorkshire Holly, Niven's mount in the Constant Security Hurdle, looks likely to be beaten by Coworth Park, who my nap. Yorkshire Holly and Eastern Oasis are handicapped to run a dead-head on their Ayr running.

Yesterday, Philip Mitchell, who trains Coworth Park, reported that the current fast ground is essential for his horse, who beat Catch The Cross (a winner three times since) so easily at Ascot, prior to running well there in the race won by Morley Street.

In going for Al Hashimi to win the big race at Cheltenham, I am of course inferring that Pendennis (1.30) can collect again at Lingfield now that he will be carrying his correct handicap weight since the weight has risen 18lb overnight.

Following that good run against Pegwell Bay at Huntingdon, Comandante (12.30) looks the banker on the Surrey.

At Doncaster, Peter Niven has obvious prospects of landing a treble on Mr Woodcock (12.40), Laurie-O (1.10), and Pearl Prospect (2.40).

However, Yorkshire Holly, Niven's mount in the Constant Security Hurdle, looks likely to be beaten by Coworth Park, who my nap. Yorkshire Holly and Eastern Oasis are handicapped to run a dead-head on their Ayr running.

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## CHELTENHAM

### Selections

By Mandarin

12.15 Tyrone Bridge.  
12.50 Remittance Man.  
1.25 Beech Road.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.00 Pin's Pride.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 COMBERMERE.

### Going: good to firm

12.15 A F BUDGE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade II; £7,100; 2m) (10 runners)

	N. Doughty	R. Duxbury	D. Murphy	M. Ward	M. Dwyer
101 242-1 GAASID 21 (F) (Parker) R Alkenst 5-1-1					
102 11 TYRONE BRIDGE 5 (G) (Duke) M Pipe 4-11-7	J. Farnell				
103 423-12 LA CHENAGA 5 (C) (Duke) of Ashton G Balding 5-11-4		J. Farnell			
104 22-2 BELLA GLASS 14 (F) (Balding) J Jenkins 4-11-0		D. Murphy			
105 5-11-12 SAILOR DUN 18 (D,F,G) M. Stirling G Harwood 4-11-0			M. Ward		
106 F-2000-1 KING WINDSOR 18 (D,F,G) M. Stirling G Harwood 4-11-0				M. Ward	
107 4232-2 SAILORS LUCK 19 (G) (Grandson) R Holden 5-11-0					M. Ward
108 2 TEKLA 19 (A) (Sope) L Jenkins Pizzigati 5-11-0					
109 0330-2 LOTUS OF LUCK 21 (F) (Parker) J Pearce 7-10-9					
BETTING: 5-4 Tyrone Bridge, 11-4 Bounden Duty, 7-1 Goldstar, 10-1 Bell Glass, 14-1 others.					

1898: RUN FOR FREE 5-11-2 P Scudamore (3-4) M Pipe 5 ran

12.50 CHARTERHOUSE MERCANTILE LEISURE NOVICES CHASE (£10,950; 2m 4f) (3 runners)

	R. Stronge	R. Duxbury	M. Dwyer
201 24-2001 AFRICAN SAFARI 22 (F) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 5-11-10			
202 2122-11 REMITTANCE MAN 14 (D,F,G) J Collins N Henderson 5-11-10			
203 06-34 RADIAN ROAD 18 (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 6-11-6			

BETTING: 1-3 Remittance Man, 7-2 African Safari, 8-1 Beech Road.

1898: IMADYNA 7-11-2 P. Scudamore (3-4) D Gillett 10-1

FORM FOCUS AFRICAN SAFARI improved to beat Desiré, 11-4, in the Cheltenham Novices' Hurdle at Newbury (2m, good to firm) last season.

REMITTANCE MAN easily beat Tonante, 12 at Ascot (2m, good to firm) last season.

1.25 CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE BULA HURDLE (Grade II; 25-1645; 2m) (6 runners)

	R. Stronge	R. Duxbury	M. Dwyer
501 1214-1 BEACH ROAD 14 (D,F,G) T Geddes 5-11-8			
502 1221-15 VAYRAM 26F (D,L) L Ward G Harwood 5-11-8			
503 1121-2 ROYAL DEER 14 (D,F,G) N Callaghan 5-11-8			
504 5291-3 SYBILLIN 17A (F,G) (Marques de Monastier) Jeremy Fitzgerald 4-11-4			
505 23705-1 DEEP SENSATION 21 (D,F,G) R Elcott J Gillett 5-11-0			

BETTING: 4-4 Beach Road, 7-2 Past Glory, 8-1 Deep Sensation, 8-1 Royal Deer, 12-1 System,

1898: CRUISING ALTITUDE 6-11-4 Diborne (6-11-1) O Sherwood 8 ran

FORM FOCUS BEECH ROAD, 1898 winner, beat ROYAL DEER (same terms 21st in grade II Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newmarket (2m, good to firm) last season.

ROYAL DEER beat Glorious Gale 21st at Purdyswood on penultimate start last season. SYBILLIN beat Windrush Lad 21 at Haydock (2m, firm) for fifth success last season with ROYAL

## Course specialists

TRAINERS

Winners	Runners	Per cent
42	198	21.2
11	158	15.3
7	120	14.3
25	148	16.9
5	31	15.1
23	193	15.0

JOCKEYS

Winners	Rides	Per cent
4	12	33.3
3	11	32.1
5	12	32.1
9	53	17.0
5	34	14.7

GOING: good to firm

12.40 TEKLA 13 (B,F,G) Mrs J Geddes 5-11-8

DEEP SENSATION 21 (D,F,G) Mrs J Geddes 5-11-8

ROYAL DEER 14 (D,F,G) N Callaghan 5-11-8

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**Executive Editor  
David Brewerton**  
**Wickes  
reworks  
loan  
deals**

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

**WICKES**, the timber and do-it-yourself group, has renegotiated its loan agreements with its bankers to avoid breaching the covenants on interest cover. The group, whose shares have fallen from more than 120p in October to 66p, has gearing estimated at 275 per cent and interest cover of less than two times.

Henry Sweetbaum, the group's chairman and chief executive, said that Wickes had not actually breached any covenants but had been in danger of doing so. "We took the necessary action to avoid that," he said. Some £10 million of debt has been repaid over the past two years and the debt repayment schedule remains unchanged.

Mr Sweetbaum revealed that trading had deteriorated and the group would not make a profit in the second half. The first-half pre-tax profit was £6.09 million. Analysts had been expecting profits of up to £16 million for the full year. Neil Currie and Tony Shiret at Lings & Cruickshank have highlighted the problems at Hunter Timber and downgraded twice in recent months to £12 million for the year, but said that that estimate looked too high in the light of the trading statement from Wickes.

Mr Sweetbaum said the United Kingdom market for timber products had deteriorated further since September. "The group's Hunter Timber and Malden Timber subsidiaries have accelerated their nationalisation and cost reduction programmes. Although this action should materially improve the trading position of these businesses in 1991, Hunter Timber will now make a loss for 1990 and as a result the Wickes Group is not expected to be profitable during the second half," he said.

He added that the Wickes retail business continues to trade well and is showing like-for-like growth in its UK stores. The retail profits will be ahead in 1990.

Wickes bought Hunter from Hillsdown Holdings for £283 million in September 1988. The deal appeared to make a lot of sense for the group but in retrospect the timing could not have been worse. Hunter's main customers are the housebuilders who are suffering badly in the recession.

#### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.9510 (+0.0120)  
German mark  
2.8806 (+0.0066)  
Exchange index  
93.5 (-0.1)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1723.8 (+5.9)  
FT-SE 100  
2183.4 (+5.9)  
New York Dow Jones  
2582.92 (-19.56)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge  
23522.49 (+969.39)

Closing Prices ... Page 37  
Major indices and  
major changes Page 34

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%  
3-month Interbank: 13½-13¾%  
3-month Eurodollar: 12½-12¾%  
US Prime Rate: 10%  
Federal Funds: 7½%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 6.89-6.88%  
30-year bonds: 105½-105¾\*

#### CURRENCIES

London: New York:  
£1.9510 £1.9508\*  
£ DM 8805 \$ DM 1.475\*  
\$ SWF 1.4531 \$ SWF 1.2630\*  
FFR 7.6153 FFFG 0.1575\*  
\$ 1.2513 £ 1.0629\*  
ECU 10.708579 SDR 0.738243  
£ ECU 1.411275 £ SDR 1.354567

#### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$371.10 cm-\$370.80  
close \$370.90-\$371.40 (£190.50-  
191.00)  
New York:  
Comex \$370.45-\$370.95\*

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) ... \$27.15 bbl (£26.70)  
\* Denotes latest trading price

#### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	2.955	2.445
Austria	2.955	2.445
Belgium	2.955	2.445
Canada	2.955	2.445
Denmark	11.60	10.90
Finland	2.955	2.445
Iceland	10.50	9.80
Germany	3.01	2.465
Greece	3.19	2.65
Hong Kong	15.00	14.50
Iceland	12.50	11.80
Italy	3.270	2.355
Japan Yen	2.70	2.54
Netherlands	3.285	3.185
New Zealand	1.15	1.05
Portugal	2.56	2.25
South Africa	5.30	4.60
Spain	19.50	17.50
Sweden	11.50	10.80
Turkey	2.57	2.41
USA	2.028	1.928
Yugoslavia	33.00	21.00

Rates for small companies. Banks only as agents for their own banks. PLCs' different rates apply to travellers cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 130.3 (October)

# Fed eases US rates on fears over recession

By GEORGE SIVELL, LONDON, and SUSAN ELLOCOTT, WASHINGTON

THE Federal Reserve, America's central bank, eased interest rates slightly yesterday after an increase in unemployment to a three-year high raised fears that the recession there will be deeper than the expected short sharp shock.

In London, the Bank of England issued, for the third consecutive Friday, a signal to the money markets that base rates must remain at 14 per cent for the next two weeks.

Dealers at the Federal Reserve signalled an easing by injecting \$1.5 billion of funds at 7.25 per cent, an effective cut in the federal funds rate from 7.5 per cent. There was still uncertainty whether the Fed would move quickly to

lower the discount rate, another key rate, which is now at 7 per cent.

The discount rate the Fed charges on loans to banks has not been changed since February 24, 1989, when it was raised by ½ point. Just before the move, American authorities revealed that the November unemployment rate rose to 5.9 per cent, the highest since October 1987, from 5.7 per cent in October.

American non-farm payroll jobs fell by 267,000 in November, against a 75,000 drop expected by economists. The jobless report gives the first comprehensive look at the economy in November and is the first indication of whether the downturn that began in October has continued.

The dollar fell after the job

figures were released and at lunchtime in New York stood at \$1.9480 against the pound, down from \$1.9375.

Foreign exchange dealers say the dollar has also lost some of its "safe-haven" status after the moves towards peace in the Gulf. The Fed easing failed to help American shares and the Dow Jones Industrial average fell 13.37 to 2,589.11 on fears of a deeper than expected recession.

Economists were shaken by the fall in employment. The October figure was revised down to 178,000 from 180,000 previously estimated. Janet Norwood, a commissioner for the Bureau of Labour Statistics, said the figures showed "a substantial and widespread deterioration" in the job market.

Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, told Congress last week the American economy was in a "meaningful downturn" in October and November. Michael Boskin, the White House chief economic adviser, this week said he expected four-quarter gross national product to indicate a shrinking economy, but he foresees an upturn after the first half of next year.

The Southwest Bank of St Louis, a small American bank, cut its prime rate immediately after the job figures were announced. Its rate came down to 9.75 per cent from 10 per cent. First Fidelity Bancorp followed, suggesting others may do so. If they do, it will be the first benchmark rate since January 8.

As the pound came under pressure, the Bank of England announced that for the third Friday in a row it was lending to the money market at 14 per cent for the next fortnight. The amount was £985 million.

The pound had a difficult day against the mark, closing just over half a pence lower at DM2.8821, reducing the scope for an early interest rate cut. On its trade-weighted index, the pound shed 0.1 to end at 93.5. In the money market, interbank interest rates eased by up to ¼% in three-month rate closing at 13½-3½ per cent.

British officials believe they will not be isolated partly because little progress is likely for many months on any of the concrete issues of monetary union. The IGC delegates, who will meet monthly, are expected to talk inconclusively for most of next year, giving Britain time to consider fundamental changes in its position.

Meanwhile, supporters of Britain's gradualist approach to EMU are likely to emerge, officials believe.

## UK retains hard line against Emu

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A GROUP of northern European countries will probably move ahead soon towards a tighter monetary union, leaving the other members of the European Monetary System, including Britain, lagging behind.

Horst Koehler, the German finance secretary, said two-speed progress towards Emu would probably prove necessary since some countries would need longer than others to prepare for the disciplines of fixed exchange rates. British officials said they would have no objections to this, provided that a framework of Emu was agreed by all.

British officials believe they will not be isolated partly because little progress is likely for many months on any of the concrete issues of monetary union. The IGC delegates, who will meet monthly, are expected to talk inconclusively for most of next year, giving Britain time to consider fundamental changes in its position.

These views, which were rejected by the other 11 members of the European Community, offered a good basis for continuing negotiations over Emu and would not lead to Britain's isolation at the IGC, the officials said.

But they acknowledged that a group of non-inflationary members in northern Europe

would move ahead soon towards a tighter monetary cooperation, leaving the other members of the European Monetary System, including Britain, lagging behind.

Although Britain's opposition to Emu led indirectly to Margaret Thatcher's removal as prime minister, Whitehall officials said yesterday that the government saw no reason to modify the positions staked out by Mrs Thatcher at the October summit.

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# Pirelli bid success would trim Continental

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
IN MILAN

PIRELLI, the Italian tyre company, will amalgamate and streamline its management with that of Continental within three years if its hostile bid for the German group is successful.

Management levels at Continental would be cut, factories reorganised, although not necessarily closed, and there are likely to be job losses, particularly if the downturn in the tyre industry continues as experts predict. In selected foreign markets, Pirelli may replace the name of Continental with its own.

According to information obtained by *The Times*, Pirelli, while prepared to negotiate the terms of its offer, insists it must take a majority stake, a stand that has become the sticking point in talks. There is

dismay at Pirelli about a pledge made by Horst Urban, the ebullient chief executive of Continental, that there will be no redundancies if Continental stays independent. Herr Urban's pledge has won him the support of the workforce, whose representatives hold half the seats on the company's supervisory board.

Pirelli has refused to defend its stand, but will reject claims made by Herr Urban that the merged company would lose sales because of the resulting near-monopoly, particularly in relation to Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz. Herr Urban says that together the companies would account for 64 per cent of tyre sales at Volkswagen, Pirelli's contribution being only 9 per cent.

Continental's strength is in the middle market for tyres, covering

the average four-door saloon, while Pirelli supplies tyres for upmarket sports cars and small cars.

It is understood that Pirelli will want to challenge Michelin's dominant position in the tyre market for commercial vehicles and trucks. In Europe, Michelin enjoys a 50 per cent market share and higher margins. The world tyre markets for commercial and private vehicles are about the same size, although Pirelli and Continental are under-represented in the commercial vehicle and truck tyres market.

Pirelli's reluctance to agree to a joint venture company and its wish to streamline the managements of the two companies stems from the Italian group's disastrous joint venture with Dunlop in the Seventies. The two companies were unable to work out joint strategies, operate

joint manufacturing operations, and therefore unable to benefit from economies of scale, which is the main rationale behind Pirelli's bid for Continental.

Economies of scale are increasingly working to the disadvantage of medium-sized companies because of the increased variety of tyres, which in Pirelli's case has doubled over the last five years to 200.

Pirelli believes that in Europe Continental and itself still operate on critical mass economies in the market for car tyres. Neither company has achieved this in the truck tyres market or wider foreign markets. Pirelli says such economies could be achieved in these areas were the two companies merged.

Pirelli had held merger talks with the shareholders of Continental before it launched its bid in September.

Pirelli claims to have the support of the majority of shareholders in Continental, although proof has not been forthcoming.

It is thought that Pirelli wants to continue talks with Continental's management and shareholders, in particular Deutsche Bank, one of whose directors, Ulrich Weiss, is also chairman of Continental. Only when it becomes obvious that Continental continues to oppose a deal will Pirelli consider calling an extraordinary meeting of shareholders in an effort to lift 5 per cent voting restrictions. Success there would allow Pirelli to buy shares in the market to obtain 51 per cent of the equity. Such a move, however, is seen as a last resort. However, due to the stand of Herr Urban and his staff, this appears the most likely scenario.

## Warning by Redwood to directors on behaviour

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE spate of big British companies running into serious trouble, or failing, this year has provoked John Redwood, the corporate affairs minister, to issue a strong warning to company directors to behave more prudently.

The statement, from the free market-oriented minister, also contained words of caution about the merits of takeovers. "Evidence is rising that, except in the very short-term, takeovers can all too often damage the wealth of the shareholders of the bidding company rather than improving it."

Mr Redwood said only a limited number of British companies had been adept at taking over others and making more of a success of them.

Stressing the need for strong action by the regulatory authorities to deter and prevent fraud, Mr Redwood said he had the quality and style of corporate governance in Britain was moving "high up the agenda".

He said: "A number of

spectacular insolvencies, coupled with greater success by the authorities in tracking down cases of fraud, insider dealing, market manipulation and malpractice has triggered the debate."

Reflecting mounting City concern over the problems that have hit well-known companies where one person fills the posts of chairman and chief executive, were the same person, Mr Redwood said in any medium- and large-sized company "there is a lot to be said for splitting the roles".

He identified a "strong case" for larger companies having three to four non-executive directors on their main board who can also sit on an audit committee, set the pay of the executive directors, and ensure that systems are in place to prevent fraud and spot financial problems at an early stage.

Although compliance with the law on filing yearly company accounts has risen to 80 per cent, he said this remained unsatisfactory.

"We will be pursuing directors at their home addresses pointing out to them they are individually responsible for ensuring that their companies meet the disclosure standards laid down."

On the issue of corporate governance, Mr Redwood noted that some people questioned whether the Anglo-Saxon style of equity finance and company government could compete successfully with the bank-driven traditions of continental Europe. He foresaw a time when continental Europe would come to appreciate the value of open and active equity markets like those in Britain.

Mr Redwood also made clear that he does not think all the blame for corporate difficulties lie with company directors. "Some banks may well need to develop longer term relationships with their clients - and vice versa."

REGINA Health & Beauty Products, the royal jelly company, incurred a pre-tax loss of £4.7 million for the year to end-June, against a profit of £54,000 last time. The shares fell 4p to 14p on the news.

The trading loss was £641,000, but there was an exceptional charge of £3.77 million for redundancies and closures and a £285,000 interest bill. Sales were down marginally on last year at £5.7 million and the loss per share was 19.7p, against earnings of 2.31p. There is again no dividend.

Since the year-end, a new management has been installed and Irene Stein, the founder of the business who was deposed in a boardroom coup a year ago, has rejoined the business. David Tett, the new chairman, said overheads had been cut by 80 per cent from last year's peak and the directors believe the company will return to profitability in the current year.

Mr Tett said: "The past year has been a traumatic one for Regina. A slowdown in demand for products was accompanied by boardroom changes, lack of trade confidence and fierce competition, plus difficulties in restructuring the company. All these factors had a negative impact on Regina's results but the worst should be behind us now."

Regina has cut its office space by 21,000 sq ft and relocated to building formerly used as Mrs Thatcher's constituency headquarters at Finchley.

Nissan UK has the exclusive distribution rights for



Amicable backing for building society bids: Philip Court (left) and Kenneth Murray

## Predator stalks societies

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SCOTTISH Amicable has emerged as the principal backer of a new financial group that hopes to make friendly takeovers of small- and medium-sized building societies and convert them to bank status.

The mutual life assurance group has put up £10 million for a 39 per cent stake in Aristech, formed by Kenneth Murray, former bank share analyst and money broker. Aristech has raised £26 million of initial capital from various British and continental institutions.

The name is adapted from the motto of the University of St Andrews, Mr Murray says, and means always to excel. But the group plans to call itself The Bank of Edinburgh, a name that has been registered but cannot be used until authorised by the Bank of England.

Mr Murray has recruited Philip Court, chief executive

of Birmingham Midshires building society for 17 years until he left in a dispute over strategy this year.

Mr Court built up Birmingham Midshires to the eleventh biggest society through 20 different mergers, but, perhaps inevitably, became a controversial figure in the cosy building society world.

The group aims to approach selected building societies with profits of between £1 million and £10 million, which covers about a third of the 107 remaining societies. Mr Murray sees a decentralised federation rather than one monolithic institution emerging. The trading benefits would come from increased scale, consequent cost savings and better services.

Such deals would include a cash payout to society members and offer share options or superior pension deals to se-

nior management. The group does not intend to make any hostile bids, which Mr Court thinks are impractical under society rules. "People are naturally nervous about change, but the benefits are obvious," said Mr Court.

Dr John Wrigglesworth of UBS Phillips & Drew, who has made a special study of building societies and compares their efficiency, says that unlocking reserves could give members payments of between £500 and £1,000.

"The idea is eminently sensible," he says, but he is doubtful if it will work when the housing market has made many societies extra-cautious.

"You can have an excellent strategy that will make everyone richer, but you are dealing with local building society boards of directors who usually have a deep belief in mutuality."

## 'No deal' for Nissan in UK

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NISSAN Motor Company of Japan appears ready to refurbish its distribution of vehicles in Britain, in perpetuity. Britain is Nissan's biggest European market, taking 138,000 vehicles last year.

Otavio Bonmar, chairman and managing director of Nissan UK, offered to negotiate a sale in a private letter sent two weeks ago to Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan. A Nissan spokeswoman said the letter had been "acknowledged".

Mr Bonmar suggested a phased acquisition of control by Nissan, spread over four to five years, and indicated that price was of secondary importance. Outside estimates of the value of Nissan UK range from £300 million to £500 million. In the year to end-July 1989, Nissan UK made pre-tax profits of £69.3 million on sales of £950 million.

Nissan UK has the exclusive distribution rights for

taking over talks during 1986-87 led to the signing of a letter of intent between Nissan UK and Mitsui, the Japanese trading house, and Nissan, acting jointly. Nissan UK was represented by Kleinwort Benson and Nissan-Matsui by Morgan Grenfell.

Mr Bonmar said: "After a number of meetings Morgan Grenfell revealed they had no instructions from Mitsui-Nissan to make an offer, and our bankers accordingly sent us their bill and advised us to discontinue discussions."

Ownership of Nissan UK was transferred by Mr Bonmar to a group of charities 16 years ago.

Mr Bonmar has not offered to sell Automotive and Financial Group Holdings, a company split out of Nissan UK two years ago, which he also runs.

## Ireland going out of fashion

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NORMAN Ireland, the company doctor who failed in his attempted rescue of Lowndes Queensway this year, has left the board of Eiam, the fashion retailer, after nearly four years as a non-executive director.

The Eiam board said Mr Ireland was leaving because of his "personal commitments elsewhere", a euphemism commonly used by directors departing on less than amicable terms. But in Mr Ireland's case it appears to be true. He is a director of no fewer than 25 companies, not to mention 12 subsidiaries.

Mr Ireland is well known for his chairmanship of Bowater Industries, Bricom Group and London & Metropolitan. According to the latest *Directory*

of Directors, he also includes among his boards: Allied Polymer Group, APG Management Services, BTR, HG Miles (Holdings), Hewitt Rose, Hi Flex Cambs, Hydulco-Nua, Jabroc (Tools), Jabil, MPB Development Engineers, Meggit, Savage Group, The Scottish Heritable Trust, Serck, Silverton Trading AG Switzerland, South Wales Brattice Cloth & Inga Rubber Co, Staxgate, Thomas Tilling International, WA Holdings and Worcester Controls.

While the South Wales Brattice Cloth & Inga Rubber Company may not take up too much of his time, it has been an eventful year for Mr Ireland. In January, he agreed to take over the chairmanship of Lowndes Queensway, the troubled furniture to carpets retailer, saying that he would step down in October. By

August, the group had gone into receivership but Lowndes' customers have cause to be grateful to Mr Ireland. He put in place the £15 million insurance policy for customer deposits.

At Savage Group, the USM-quoted hardware supplier, where Nick Savage, the chairman, and David Brown, chief executive, recently resigned, Mr Ireland has said he will not stand for re-election.

This year has also seen the £337.5 million takeover of Bricom by Gameladen, the Swedish financial services group, and the suspension of London & Metropolitan's share price at 8p.

But despite the never-ending round of board meetings the 67-year-old super-director still has time for other things. Who's Who lists his recreations as gardening, ballet, opera and music.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Gaynor shares dive after losses deepen

SHARES in Gaynor Group, the Unlisted Securities Market-quoted manufacturer of plastic bags and packaging film, collapsed from 23p to 3p after the group's losses deepened. The company dived to pre-tax losses of £1.54 million in the year to end-August (£123,000 profit). The group had slipped into the red with a £557,000 loss at the interim stage. It blamed the results on a jump in raw material costs and the loss of two major supermarket customers.

Peter Giles, the managing director, said the loss of the customers was largely responsible for a drop in turnover from £8.28 million to £6.41 million. He said the Gulf tension had led to a 50 per cent jump in the price of the company's raw materials.

There is a 20p loss per share, against earnings of 1.5p previously. Once again, there is no dividend.

### North Sea asset swap

CLYDE Petroleum, the independent oil company, and Fina Petroleum Development have agreed a North Sea asset exchange. Clyde is to acquire Fina's 25 per cent interest in block 9/18b, increasing its total interest in the block to 35 per cent. Fina will receive three parcels from Clyde: 1.65 per cent in block 16/27b, 15 per cent in block 16/27b, and a 5.5 per cent interest in block 22/5b.

### Sanderson ahead 10%

SANDERSON Electronics, supplier of computer systems, increased taxable profits by 10 per cent to £1.3 million in the year to end-September on turnover of £14.3 million up 19 per cent. Earnings were 8 per cent higher at 24.8p a share.

The company, which paid an interim dividend of 3p a share, is to pay a first interim dividend of 3.4p a share for the year just ended. A second interim dividend for the current financial year will be paid in July 1991. Net assets rose to £2.01 million (£1.34 million).

### Boscombe up to £125,000

BOSCOMBE Property had pre-tax profits of £15,000 for the six months to end-September, compared with a £32,700 loss for the same period last year. Gross rental income was ahead 10 per cent at £342,000. The company said that "a satisfactory profit is expected for the full year". An interim 40p ordinary dividend compares with 25p last year.

It said Mr Bond failed to disclose to Mr Cappin, another Perth businessman, that Rothwell's had agreed to pay Mr Bond's flagship company, Bond Corporation, Aus\$16 million on or before December 24, 1987.

The offence carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison or an Aus\$20,000 fine, or both.

Mr Bond was arrested on Thursday by a state government task force in connection with his role in an attempted rescue of Rothwell's Ltd, a finance company that collapsed in 1988.

Mr Cappin ruled that Mr Bond must give the task force 24 hours' notice of any intention to travel abroad and his initial destination, despite objections from his lawyer.

Mr Bond remained silent throughout the ten-minute proceedings.

On Thursday, Mr Bond issued a statement saying he was innocent of any wrongdoing and denied he had acted dishonestly.

Mr Bond is the sixth person to be arrested and charged by the Rothwell's investigators in the past week.

(Reuter)

UNITED Industries, the spring and cutting tools maker, has cut its dividend after a decline in first-half pre-tax profits, from £1.36 million to £693,000 in the six months to October 6. There were higher interest costs and reduced operating profits.

The company said that although the material handling division maintained profitability at operating level, the springs division was affected by reductions in customers' requirements. Earnings fell from 2.54p to 1.41p. The interim dividend is cut from 1.2p to 0.5p. Shares lost 5p to 23p.

### Debt servicing tips Leica into losses

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LEICA, the USM-quoted optics group formed out of a merger involving Cambridge Instruments last year, has announced an £859,000 pre-tax loss for the half year to end-September, despite earning operating profits of £7.4 million.

A jury on Thursday found Herscu guilty of two corruption charges relating to an Aus\$100,000 (£39,000) bribe made in 1983 to Russ Hinze, the former Queensland state government minister.

Herscu told the court he paid Mr Hinze the money to buy Herscu racetracks, although none was ever bought.

The prosecution said the money was paid to encourage Mr Hinze to assist with political favours.

Herscu, who wept during character evidence by a friend before the sentencing, declared himself bankrupt in July this year with debts of almost Aus\$500 million.

Herscu was put into receivership in July last year with debts of about Aus\$2 billion.

Herscu came to Australia in 1950 as a penniless immigrant, working his way up to become one of the country's wealthiest men. He took over Hooker Corp in 1986.

Mrs Hinze, a former minister in the Queensland government of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, is also facing official corruption charges but

## WALL STREET

## Early fall for Dow

New York  
BLUE chips, unable to gain any support from strong bond prices and hopes of lower interest rates, suffered losses in mid-morning. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 10 points to 2,592.48.

The United States Treasury 30-year bond rose by about a point. Mike Lockwood, the manager of American equity trading at SG Warburg, said that the weak economy height-

ened worries about fourth-quarter company earnings.

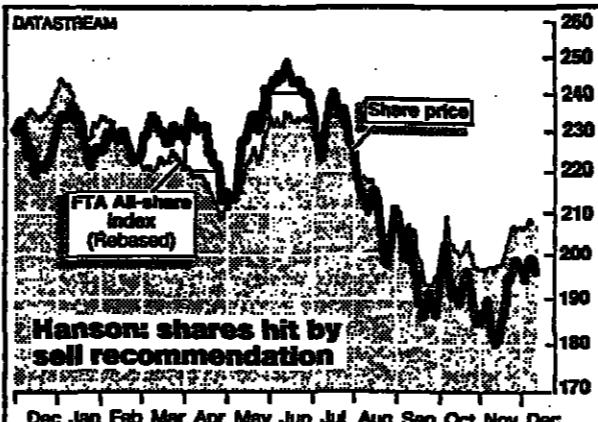
• Frankfurt — The Dax index finished 8.17 points higher at 1,512.84, its fifth gain in the last six market days. The Dax has climbed 71.61 points, or 5 per cent, in the week.

• Singapore — Individual and institutional investors made a strong comeback to push the Straits Times industrial index up 44.39 points, or 3.84 per cent, to 1,197.85. (Reuters)

Dec 7 Dec 8  
Monday close Monday close

## STOCK MARKET

## Market-makers hope for a 'killing' on power shares



Hanson: shares hit by sell recommendation

start on Wall Street, where the latest unemployment figures made grim reading. The FTSE 100 index ended 5.9 higher at 2,183.4 — a rise of 5.9 per cent to 50,000, to 25,000 shares.

Dealers are predicting heavy institutional support for the electricity package after seeing hefty premiums established in the grey market. Last night, the dearest quoted was Northern, at 140p in the middle, compared with the partly-paid offer price of 100p. The cheapest was Eastern at 133p. Trading in the full market starts on Tuesday at 2.30pm to coincide with the opening of Wall Street. The market will stay open for one and a half hours after its usual closing time of 4.30pm.

The excitement created by the electricity privatisation also spilled over into the water shares where some big gains were achieved. Anglian rose 2p to 279p, Northumbrian 5p to 272p, North West 5p to 272p, Severn Trent 3p to 230p, Southern 3p to 242p, South West 5p to 262p, Thames 4p to 262p, Welsh 6p to 279p, Wessen 10p to 257p and Yorkshire 2p to 273p.

The water package soared £45 to £2,623. The rest of the equity market ended the three-week account on a steady note, cheered by the news of a cut in American prime rates. The market hopes that this will lead to an early reduction in rates here. However, the best gains were not held, largely because of a nervous

acquisition of Peabody to cover future claims by miners suffering from "black lung" disease.

The price later closed 2½p lighter at 197p. Some analysts have not been impressed with Hanson's full-year figures which showed pre-tax profits 21 per cent up at £1.26 billion. BZW is telling its clients to sell and it seems unimpressed with the group's overall performance.

It says that most of Lord Hanson's effort is being concentrated on strengthening the balance sheet with disposals which should put the group in a strong position to make further acquisitions. But it seems that even Hanson cannot avoid the effects of the recession.

A report in *The Lancet*, the leading medical journal, calling for a reappraisal of the way asthma sufferers are treated, left Fisons with a 5½p fall to 377p and Glaxo with a 23p loss at 839p. Fisons is a market leader with its Intal anti-asthma treatment and last week Glaxo launched a new treatment, Seretide.

The report suggested that asthma sufferers should be advised to use the drugs only when they feel an attack developing, instead of using the treatment a prescribed number of times every day as a preventative medicine. This would cut the use of the drugs and eventually hit profits.

Ian Moore, a pharmaceuticals analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "They remain the drugs of choice. The only query is the dosage levels." He thought that Glaxo and Fisons had been chased too high on foreign buying and he would recommend clients to lighten their exposure.

Last night some reports from New York suggested that Glaxo was poised to make a bid for Upjohn, the American pharmaceuticals group.

MICHAEL CLARK

## MAJOR INDICES

## RATES

Trinity Int	187p (+9)
Guinness	777½p (+15)
Scot & Newcastle	367p (+6)
Barclays	390p (+6)
Lloyds	3012½p (+8)
Montgomery	102.00 (-1.20)
Amstrad	102.00 (-1.20)
Nike	12.50 (-0.50)
Motorola	102.00 (-1.20)
Micro Focus	792½p (+10)
Sema Group	484p (+10)
THORN EMI	673½p (+10)
Sotheby's	637½p (+10)
Brit Aerospace	551p (+15)
Siemens	5131.33 (+61.42)
Apparel Co	447.01 (+4.20)
Zurich SKA Gen	485.21 (-0.20)
London:	1512.84 (+8.17)
Brussels:	1050.67 (+3.34)
FT - All-Shares	1050.67 (+3.34)
FT - Gold Mines	150.40 (+0.6)
FT - Dividend	90.84 (+0.11)
FT - Small Stocks	272.50
SEAS Volume	521.3m
US (Dataset) —	107.05 (+0.29)

\*Denotes latest trading price

CLOSING PRICES

## MAJOR CHANGES

FALLS:	
Hardy & Hancock	-88p (-10)
Taverne	-40p (-10)
Glegg	-638½p (-23p)
CLOSING PRICES	
Michael Clark	

## Nikkei up 969 points in strong trade

## TOKYO

said: "The atmosphere was bullish, but cautious. The Nikkei continued to rise in the first 15 minutes. The Nikkei moved from 36.90 points above Thursday's close in the first 15 minutes. The Nikkei continued to rise in the weekend gains. The Hang Seng index closed 36.90 points up at 3,163.69.

• Sydney — Shares ended the week on a high note, boosted by the surge in Tokyo. The All-Ordinaries index closed 330 million on Thursday.

The Nikkei surged from the opening, climbing 316.25

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# Survival in the Nineties is name of the game for industrialists

**W**hen Lord Weinstock, Professor Roland Smith and Sir Denis Henderson sing the same tune it is difficult for analysts in the City to turn a deaf ear. General Electric Company did not increase its interim dividend this week and foreshadowed 6,000 redundancies.

British Aerospace has given notice of 4,500 redundancies and intends to take out two factories. Imperial Chemical Industries did not cut its dividend, as some had feared it would, but it is cutting back capital investment and is not expecting "good growth" before "later in the Nineties".

The reaction of the City scribblers to the gathering gloom in industry — services as well as manufacturing — is twofold. The first is to downgrade profit and dividend forecasts and seriously damage share prices. The second is to debate the probable depth and duration of the current recession. Are we in a mild recession or facing a slump?

The official Treasury view, formulated under John Major, is that the United Kingdom is in a short, shallow recession. Gross domestic product will fall just over 1 per cent between the first and second halves of this year, level out in the first half of 1991 and rise sharply in the second half. The Confederation of British Industry is forecasting a much worse outcome next year, not least because capital investment is expected to fall away by 6 per cent. Economists in the City are coming round to the CBI side.

Roger Bootle, of Midland Montagu, makes the point that many people think that the recession cannot possibly be as bad as 1979-81 because high interest rates this time are not accompanied by a surging exchange rate. Equally, it cannot be as bad as 1974-5 because we do not have rampant inflation interacting dangerously with the weak state of company finances. "The distinctive feature this time is the growing collective reluctance of the banking system to supply credit." The banks' own balance sheets are under pressure. They have a jaundiced view of many customers' creditworthiness and prefer to force them into insolvency than fall into the abyss themselves.

Bootle, among others, does not think there will be a slump because the government would take action to prevent one. Interest rates would be

sharply reduced; the first Norman Lamont Budget would raise the level of public spending and lower taxes well beyond the £3 billion already promised for poll tax relief; and in the last resort sterling would be devalued.

These are essentially City perspectives and statistical judgments, which have a bland quality. In the real world, the problem is not perceived as responding to a mild recession measured on the economist scale. "The dominant theme of the 1990s," leading industrialists believe, "is survival."

"We do not know whether the Soviet Union will survive. Or the United States banking system. Or UK manufacturing industry. In the 1980s the emphasis in industry was on marketing and growth in the City on earnings per share and dividends. The Lawson

boom in 1987-8 was the final expression of the confidence of the Eighties. It was good while it lasted and it lasted as long as it did because of North Sea oil revenues, tax cutting, deregulation, the loss of trade union power and an expanding international economy.

We are now suffering a hangover, bleary-eyed but conscious of the impact of high inflation, high exchange rates and high interest rates. You cannot devise a better formula for crippling manufacturing industry in this country.

To survive you need a strong balance sheet, or a substantial business overseas, or preferably both. The financial pressure on companies is probably greater than it has ever been. If cash-flow is not enough to cover interest, tax, dividends and capital investment something has to give. Already, companies have virtually stopped making takeover bids and arranging mergers.

Capital spending is being scaled down, capacity taken out and men and women laid off. And as earnings per share drop dividends will come increasingly under threat."

This stark assessment, which incidentally is supported by an outstanding paper from Warburg Securities on *The*

**Financial Fragility of the Company Sector**, is not the end of the story. British industry is also threatened with being marginalised by continental scepticism and our lack of commitment to greater European integration. The main continental countries remain protectionist at heart. They believe that it is in the national good to secure and promote their own industries. This is foreign to the British tradition of free trade and the free sale of all but half a dozen UK companies to any buyer prepared to pay the price.

Arguably we have no option but to encourage foreign investment as we no longer have the industrial capacity or competitive muscle to bridge the balance of payments gap. It is an approach the United States, with similar problems to our own, has also adopted. Unlike us, the Americans do not make a virtue out of Japanese acquisitions of American companies, as is the most recent example — Matsushita's purchase of MCA for \$6.6 billion cash — again demonstrated.

But our courtship of the Japanese, in the eyes of other European Community members, puts us in the American camp where we still have a preference to be. The majority of the EC countries, notably the Franco-German axis, regard Japan and the United States as their main commercial rivals.

How deep their enmity runs could be seen in the bitter and protracted conflict in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. How strong their suspicion runs is reflected in their idea that the Bush Administration is deliberately engineering the devaluation of the dollar in an attempt to restore American competitiveness.

So where do we go from here? The Treasury is now firmly in control of government and will decide when the hurting has to stop, unless overridden by the demands of election politics. The prime minister as he embarks on his own Community journey would do well to have in mind the legitimate concerns of UK industry and the fear of semi-isolation from the dynamic opportunities the "new Europe" offers. The stock market may have bottomed but still needs to be approached with caution because companies are in a delicate financial state when survival, not expansion, is the name of the game.



KENNETH FLEET

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## Umeico turnover grows to £7.27m

By PHILIP PANGLOS

UMECO, the specialist engineering business that came to the US last year, lifted pre-tax profits by 9 per cent from £378,000 to £411,000 in the six months to end-September. Organic growth helped group turnover advance from

£5.17 million to £7.27 million.

Fluid Transfer, the group's subsidiary which manufactures aircraft refuellers and supplies about 80 per cent of the British market, accounts for about half of the group's turnover. George Metcalfe, chairman, said the subsidiary

produced outstandingly good results backed by a full order book.

Shareholders will receive an increased interim dividend, up from 1.575p to 1.655p. Earnings per share were unchanged at 4.9p, after a higher tax charge.

Mr Metcalfe said he expects growth in full-year profits, unless the economy declines further. He said that sales to aerospace customers have been "very satisfactory", although industrial sales are being affected by the economy.

## RECENT ISSUES

### EQUITIES

	M & W PLC	81-1
Atlantic Resources	Malaysia Capital Radio	75
Brabson Res.	Prudential	91-
CMV Group	Pitcairn	91-
Castle Cairn (50p)	Pelican Co	33
Dermotow Inv Trst (100p)	Proteus Int'l	103-2
ECU Tst	Sesam Healthcare	140-
EPIC Java Tst	Smaller IT	70
Faber Prest	Stand Platform	185
Golden Vale	Tur Euro Gwth	91-1
Ivergordon	Uld Energy	114-
Leading Ls New	Unicorn	104-
Montrose	Wig Tpe App	118-3
MML		159-6
		159-6

### UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Source supplied by May's Guide to Insurance Investments. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### BUILDING SOCIETIES

	Branch & Bingley	13.70	250k+	80	After 0.5% reduction after one year.
Chorley	13.80	250-200k	80		
Craven	13.80	250-100k	80		
Hilfex	13.70	210k+	80		

Source supplied by May's Guide to Building Societies. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### BANKS

	BNP Paribas	13.70	250k+	80	Rate discounted for first six months.

Source supplied by May's Guide to Banks. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### OTHER INSURANCE COMPANY

	Mortgage Trust	13.55	220k+	85

Source supplied by May's Guide to Other Insurance Companies. Tel: 071 55444 for further details

### LARGER LOANS

	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes

Source supplied by May's Guide to Larger Loans. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### BUILDING SOCIETIES

	Bradford & Bingley	13.70	250k+	80	After 0.5% reduction after one year.

Source supplied by May's Guide to Building Societies. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	at 50%	at 40%	Min/Max Investment £	Notice	Contact

Source supplied by May's Guide to Interest Rates Round-up. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### BANKS

	Ordinary Dep A/c:	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/none 7 day

Source supplied by May's Guide to Banks. Tel: 071 404 2768 for further details

### INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Ordinary Dep A/c:	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/none 7 day

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### BANKS

	Ordinary Dep A/c:	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/none 7 day


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# Portfolio

**PLATINUM**

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this total against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Firm trend

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings began November 19. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 35).

# Portfolio

**PLATINUM**

© Times Newspapers Limited  
**WEEKLY DIVIDEND**  
£4,000  
Claims required for +234 points  
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No.	Company	Group	Gains or Losses	1990	Low	Close	High	Open	Change	% Chg	Yield	P.E.
1	National Grid	Banks, Discount	... 0.00	130	129.50	130.00	130.50	129.50	+0.50	+3.8%	4.50	25.0
2	Gen. Elec.	Electricals	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
3	TGK	Industrials A-D	... 0.00	130	129.50	130.00	130.50	129.50	+0.50	+3.8%	4.50	25.0
4	Compass Grp	Leisure	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
5	Ward Group	Building, Roads	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
6	Birds Wm	Industrials A-D	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
7	Prudential Alexander	Industrials A-D	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
8	United Electrics	Electricals	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
9	Granada (as)	Industrials E-K	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
10	King & Shlesman	Banks, Discount	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
11	Sovereign Water	Water	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
12	Windham Eng	Industrials S-Z	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
13	Link Greenleaves	Paper, Print, Advt.	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
14	Stockwell (as)	Drapers, Stores	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
15	Siemens (as)	Water	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
16	Courier Trade	Building, Roads	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
17	RICOH (as)	Electricals	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
18	Penland	Industrials L-R	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
19	Hardy O & G	Oil/Gas	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
20	Lloyd's (as)	Banks, Discount	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
21	Salefney	Industrials S-Z	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
22	Perinsure	Building, Roads	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
23	Color Gp	Oil/Gas	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
24	North West	Water	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
25	Barr (AG)	Foods	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
26	First Leisure	Leisure	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
27	Crescent	Properties	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
28	Thames Water	Water	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
29	Unilever (as)	Industrials S-Z	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
30	Uid Sciences	Electricals	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
31	Bromford Inds	Industrials A-D	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
32	Bank of Ireland	Banks, Discount	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
33	Eurotunnel Units	Transport	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
34	ERF	Motors/Aircraft	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
35	Wheyco	Industrials S-Z	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
36	Watson & Philip	Foods	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
37	MTG (as)	Industrials L-R	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
38	Barclays (as)	Banks, Discount	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
39	High-Point	Industrials E-K	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
40	Land Spec (as)	Property	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
41	Downey	Motors/Aircraft	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
42	D&A (as)	Transport	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
43	Weir	Industrials S-Z	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
44	Harmont (John)	Building, Roads	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Tele	... 0.00	125	124.50	125.00	125.50	124.50	+0.50	+4.0%	4.50	25.0

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend												
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.												
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	Weekly Total					

There were no valid claims for yesterday's £1,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. The money will be added to Monday's prize.

### BRITISH FUNDS

No.	Fund	Stock	Price	Chg	Int.	Gross	Yield	Yield %	P.E.




<tbl



**LETTERS****Small claims court holds sway over act of God**

*From Dr Sydney G. Donald*  
Sir, Mrs Baker's unfortunate encounter with an act of God (Court victory for car owner, November 24) recalls the misfortune which befell (literally) my wife's car some years ago when she parked in windy weather next to a Methodist church.

When two large chimney pots crashed down from the church, just missing my wife but crushing the car roof, the church council — no doubt with some authority! — dismissed the accident out of hand as an act of God. We had no option but to have the car

repaired under our vehicle policy, thus losing our no claims bonus entitlement.

When neither the AA nor our own car insurance company showed any interest in our plight, we decided to sue the church, on the grounds of inadequate maintenance, in the small claims court (against advice from court officials that "you can't sue a church").

As the cost of repairs was £850 — well beyond the court limit of £500 — we adopted the expedient of suing only for our "uninsured losses", i.e. the policy excess of £25. We had persuaded our insurance com-

pany to treat recovery of this sum as an admission of liability by the church, and therefore as grounds for reinstating our no claims bonus in full.

The case never came to court: a few days after the issue of the summons, a cheque from the church in settlement of our claim was thrust furiously through our letterbox. So all small litigants, take heart! The powers of the small claims court extend even unto acts of God!

Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY G. DONALD,

3 Welburn Avenue,

Leeds, West Yorkshire.

**Home studies**

*From Mr Geoffrey Gardener*  
Sir, I am 64 and retired on an indexed pension of £12,000 gross. My wife is 53 and has a gross salary of £20,800. We have two sons of 16 and 18.

Our elder son is due to go to university next year. We shall be expected to make a "parental contribution" towards his maintenance.

As this would be means-tested, would it in your view be worth our while to mortgage our house (at present unencumbered) so that mortgage repayments could be set against income? I should be grateful for your opinion.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY GARDENER,

Regnum  
Lewes Road,  
Ringmer, East Sussex.

It appears that a deduction for parental contribution purposes for interest paid is only allowed where the interest payments are those "on which tax relief is normally allowed". Please see the Department of Education and Science booklet on "Grants to Students 1990-91", page 14.

Mortgage interest on the property in which you live as your sole or main residence is only allowable if the money is borrowed to purchase the property; a subsequent borrowing secured on the house would not normally be deductible unless the money was applied for one of the other "qualifying" purposes, which would not seem to be applicable here. In the circumstances, I do not think that your proposal would be effective.

**Credit card thief was too quick off mark**

*From the chief executive, Barclaycard*

Sir, I was sorry to read of Mrs McGahey's distressing experience relating to the theft of her Barclaycard and its subsequent use by the thief to obtain a cash advance (December 1). However, I must write to correct a mistaken impression that the fraudulent cash advance occurred ten days after the theft was reported.

Mrs McGahey very promptly reported the theft of her Barclaycard at 4.35 pm on September 13 — but even that was not quick enough to stop the thief making a cash advance of £200 over the counter of a nearby building society at 4.30 pm. At the time the cash advance was authorised, Barclaycard had no reason to

suspect that the transaction was anything but genuine.

Had the advance occurred from a cash machine the transaction date would have appeared on Mrs McGahey's statement showing the swiftness of the thief. But cash advances over bank or building society counters are dated when they are processed which will be some days later.

Far from not having the stomach to fight, Barclaycard's fraud department of nearly 200 staff is working hard to eradicate this very worrying problem. Mrs McGahey can rest assured our determination to stop fraud has not wavered.

Yours faithfully,  
K. C. BIGNALL,  
Barclays Bank,  
54 Lombard Street, EC3.

**Prize bonds**

*From Mr Berkley Hawgood*

Sir, Your recent correspondence concerning Ernie prompted me to relate my experience. In June 1986 I bought 500 bonds. By October 1990 they had been in the draw for four years without a prize, until October 19 when on that day I received two £50 prizes. The winning numbers differing by only 19.

Yours sincerely,  
BERKLEY HAWGOOD,  
10 Brynawelon Road,  
Cefn-y-braint,  
Cwmbran, Dyfed.

**Pep for fees**

*From Mr R. A. Nicholls*

Sir, I invested £2,400 in BP shares in a NatWest Pep in

November 1987. This week I withdrew the investment, and the final account over almost exactly three years is my profit £475.39, NatWest fees £131.54, brokers' fees £99.93, stamp duty and VAT £34.34.

It would have been difficult to have earned less than £700 tax free from a building society for the same investment for the same time, and an investment that gives £34 to the government can hardly be called tax-free.

However, it is quite clear why the financial services community welcomes these plans.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. NICHOLLS,  
45 Pound Street,  
Sherborne,  
Dorset.

**Tessa tempter from Lloyds**

THE first 25,000 savers applying to put the maximum lump sum of £9,000 into a Lloyds Bank tax exempt special savings account (Tessa) will receive a 2 per cent bonus for the first year. Others applying before the end of February will receive 1 per cent extra (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Lloyds Tessa will initially offer 13.5 per cent tax-free plus bonuses, depending on market rates. Interest will be paid annually.

Under the lump sum scheme, £3,000 will be invested in the tax-free Tessa at the beginning of next year and £6,000 in a feeder account.

This will pay the same rate of interest as the Tessa but will be liable to tax.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society launched two Tesses this week. The Maxi-Tessa will transfer the maximum amount from the society's London Share and Cheltenham Gold accounts each year into a Tessa, which will pay the same rate of interest as the parent account but tax-free.

The Cheltenham Building Society's Tessa will offer 13 per cent return on the London and 13.67 per cent on Cheltenham Gold. The Flexi-Tessa will allow savers to design their own plans from an initial in-

vestment of £100. The interest rate will start at 12 per cent.

The Bank of Scotland is offering a first-year bonus and a loyalty bonus 0.5 per cent in year five to early applicants.

Those who registered before the end of July will earn 13.5

per cent, plus 1 per cent for as long as the bank's base rate stays at 14 per cent.

Applicants by the end of February will be paid 13 per cent.

This will give a 15.33 per cent

return on the London and

13.67 per cent on Cheltenham Gold.

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This will give a 15.33 per cent

return on the London and

13.67 per cent on Cheltenham Gold.

**L**ife insurance companies are becoming nervous about declaring their with-profits bonuses this year. This is a sure sign that bad news is on the way after a poor year for world stock markets and property.

Norwich Union has for the past four or five years announced its bonuses first and then witnessed other companies tweaking their figures to appear a mite higher in the performance table. Last year Commercial Union produced its bonuses just three hours after Norwich Union on December 14.

This year, however, Norwich Union has announced it does not want to be first. It does not want to be a stalking horse any longer. Policyholders will have to wait until January 10.

A spokesman said Norwich Union did not feel it was under any obligation to go first because it had done so for the last four or five years. Hugh Scurfield, general manager and actuary, is on record as saying that payouts for 25-year policies and longer have scope to increase, but that shorter policies will come under pressure. The company says it is

not expecting "substantial movements either way" on shorter term policies.

It would have suited many rivals for Norwich Union to be first again this year and establish a downward trend. The question is who will be first and how bad will their news be for investors? It could be that Commercial Union finds itself first to declare this year as its board meets on December 18 and expects to release its bonuses on that day.

One insurance company — not Norwich Union — is so nervous about what it has to reveal that it has taken the unorthodox step of offering to pay journalists to place friendly articles in national newspapers explaining why it is a good thing for bonuses to be cut.

The company is trying to prepare policyholders and insurance salesmen for bad news. It has failed. It has alerted us to the levels of dishonesty that are considered necessary to sell more policies. It is not the sentiments



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

of the people locked into long-term investments that concern the industry but how they will sell policies next year if they have to admit any degree of failure this year. They should learn a little bit of the long-termism that investors are urged to adopt.

Nobody is in any doubt that high bonuses cannot be sustained in current markets, but that does not mean it is the wrong time to take out a 25-year investment.

There is greatest concern in companies about the reversionary, or annual, bonuses, which once announced are guaranteed. These affect all policies and cost most to hold at 1989 levels or to increase. Companies are faced

with the choice of paying bonuses in line with investment earnings this year or digging deep into reserves.

Terminal bonuses are paid on maturity and therefore to a much smaller number of policyholders each year. Some companies place much greater emphasis on these bonuses, as for a smaller spend they can move further up the performance tables and sell more policies in subsequent years.

The terminal bonus can account for more than 60 per cent of the final pay out. This year's chart-topping terminal bonus may help salesmen to sell policies, but it is no guarantee to investors nearing maturity that

next year's will be as attractive. It will be interesting to see whether insurance companies have more concern for new sales or existing policyholders.

## No excuses

The sorry saga of Stock Group investors does not improve. Every promise seems to be broken. Last month the investors who have been waiting since June to be given some of their cash back were told that details of what they were owed would be sent by the end of November. Compensation would not be far behind.

No circulars have been forthcoming. Investors who have in many cases inadvertently been caught up in the collapse of British and Commonwealth have been told by the broker that no figures can yet be given to the board to enable compensation of up to £15,000 to be paid. The

company has now discovered that it miscalculated interest payments on money deposited with British and Commonwealth Merchant Bank in the year to April 5. It has to revise its figures while the clients' patience runs out. Many of them started out as private clients of Chase Manhattan Stockbrokers and were sold on to the Stock Group in February.

The excuses must soon run out as to why the broker cannot supply basic information to the board and its clients.

## Calling ban

Four new types of unit trusts are to be launched next year and for once common sense has prevailed. Salesmen will not be allowed to cold-call clients and sell the new riskier funds over the telephone.

The Securities and Investments Board proposes that salesmen should be banned from selling the futures and options, more volatile geared futures and options and warrants funds, by cold calling.

# Draft banking code leaves customers guessing

By LINDSAY COOK

WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

A VOLUNTARY code of practice to be introduced by banks and building societies next year will give customers new rights. However, unless it is strengthened during the three-month consultation period it will fall short of the recommendations of the Jack Committee on banking services and subsequent white paper.

A limit on the losses on all bank building society and store cards to £50 is the most important proposal. This would bring cash dispensers and other cards into line with credit cards. These have a £50 statutory limit under the Consumer Credit Act. But there will still be plenty of room for dispute. The draft code states that banking services customers "may be liable for all losses if they have acted fraudulently or negligently" without actually spelling out what will be considered negligent.

Customers are told never to write their personal identification number on the card or on anything usually kept with it, or in any way that could be

recognised by anyone else. No guidance is given on what is deemed recognisable. At the launch of the draft code, Sir George Blunden, the chairman of its steering committee, said disputes would still be for the banking and building societies ombudsman to resolve.

Under the code, if the card is still in the possession of the customer, he or she is likely to have to suffer any loss.

Some customers are reluctant to accept multi-function cards to back cheques or use as a debit card because banks issue personal identification numbers (PINs) to be used in cash dispensers. Under the code, customers will be given the option of whether they have a number or not.

The Jack Committee had recommended that card security could be improved by requiring customers to acknowledge receipt of new cards and numbers before they could be used. The banks and building societies have, however, decided that customers do not want this and that it will not cut down on fraud.

The draft code is seeking guidance on whether card issuers should be compelled to give customers a choice of

PIN. About half the companies give a choice now and Barclays announced this week that it is to add this service to its cards. But cardholders must be careful with the number they choose. Many opt for a combination of their birthdate, allowing thieves who steal a handbag or briefcase containing wallet and diary to access accounts.

Customers will be told more clearly what charges they may incur on bank accounts. The white paper stated that charges should not be debited from a customer's account without prior warning of the amount. The committee accepted that charges should not be debited unless customers "were or should have been aware of them."

It did not feel that this

meant the amount to be debited should be specifically notified in advance. Many customers can be pushed into overdraft which normally means additional charges. But the draft document said: "For that minority of customers a system whereby charges could not be debited until, say, two

leved so that they could avoid being overdrawn and incurring even more charges. Many customers were confused by being given details of uncleared balances on their bank statements. The original recommendation was that they should be given both cleared and uncleared balances.

The code fails short in that it expects banks to give customers full information on the cheque clearing cycle. This may prove to be complicated. A customer who pays in a cheque will normally find it is cleared in three working days.

A transfer of money from a savings account to a current account at the same branch is counted as cleared funds. A transfer of money from a savings account held at one branch to a current account of the same bank at another branch may have to go through the bank's clearing system and take three days.

Sir George Blunden said that the council believed bank and building society computers could give customers the option of receiving either cleared or uncleared balances. Abbey National, for example, gives customers both cleared and uncleared balances.

Customer confidentiality will be safeguarded to the same degree as it is currently. Banks and building societies will be able to supply names and addresses to investment and financial subsidiaries but not details of accounts. However, Sir George said a bank would be able to supply a list of all its personal customers with assets of £50,000 or more to an insurance subsidiary.

The large banks and building societies say that the code will be confirmation of best banking practice. National Westminster and Lloyds say

that card customers are already limited to £50 losses.

Barclays is considering bringing in the limit early.

Customers as well as banks and consumer groups are encouraged to put their views on the code, which is available from the Banking Information Service, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AR. They have until March to submit comments to the "Code of Banking Practice," to the same address. Sir George said that weight would be given to the "sensibility and persuasiveness of the comments not the importance of the person making them."



Seeking the public's views: Sir George Blunden

## Farewell to Serps may pay as pension day approaches

By WEEKEND MONEY STAFF

PEOPLE who have contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) could lose out if they are not advised to contract back in as they approach retirement.

Pension providers calculate that women aged up to age 40 and men up to age 45 would be better off contracted out of Serps, but that above those ages the state scheme generally

gives a higher guaranteed rebate from their national insurance contributions in a personal pension. At the moment the rebate is 5.8 per cent on earnings of between £2,392 and £18,200, plus a further 2 per cent incentive to contract out until 1993.

David Barley, pensions marketing manager at Legal & General, said: "People have been attracted by rebated schemes and it pays for men up to 45 to contract out. We think women should contract back in at 37 as they will retire earlier. There comes a point where contributions will buy more in Serps because the government promises a guaranteed amount of benefit whereas a private plan relies on the return on investment. People have to take a view on investment performance."

Legal & General writes to its 300,000 policyholders contracted out of Serps when it thinks they should consider contracting back in. Another large provider, the Prudential, which has 500,000 contracted out policyholders, relies on the salesmen who sold the contracts to advise people.

People who bought their contracts through independent financial advisers need to check for themselves when they would benefit more from contracting back in. The Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers' Regulatory Association (Fimbra), the watchdog for independent advisers, confirmed that independents were not obliged to tell policyholders they should go back into Serps.

People in a contracted out money purchase occupational scheme reaching the relevant ages should also consider contracting back into Serps.

By SARA MC CONNELL

BANKS and building societies are continuing to mail their customers with offers of personal loans to pay off other debts, despite warnings to members of the public from the Office of Fair Trading not to fall into unmanageable debt, particularly over Christmas.

The proposed banking code published this week will also require lenders to act responsibly and prudently in marketing loans and to take particular care when dealing with applications from young people aged 18 to 21.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, cautioned this week: "Christmas is traditionally the time of the annual peak in credit use. In November and December 1989, credit card and finance house advances to consumers totalled £6.98 billion and latest statistics for this year indicate that borrowing continues at a high level. In a survey on the use of consumer credit commissioned by my office a couple of years ago, a fifth of credit users said they had taken on credit commitments they had later regretted."

Customers considered creditworthy are mailed regularly by most large societies and banks and offered both secured and unsecured loans. Secured loans use the borrower's home as security, which means lenders can sell contacts to advise people.

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People in a contracted out money purchase occupational scheme reaching the relevant ages should also consider contracting back into Serps.

Michael Hardy and Co, the estate agent, another Castlegate subsidiary, has been sold. Mr Wharton has called in Radford, Sons and Co, a Southampton accountant, as liquidator, but it is normal practice for the liquidator to be ratified by the creditors.

Michael Radford, senior partner at the liquidator's said it was not yet clear what the financial position of the Castlegate companies was.

But he added: "Mr Wharton is confident that all the money will be repaid. National Westminster Bank is owed a re-

turn of 20 per cent return. In the early days of the scheme smaller sums qualified

the home to pay off the loan if the borrower defaults. Unsecured loans are offered on the basis of a customer's creditworthiness and generally carry a higher rate of interest than a secured loan.

Those wanting to consolidate credit cards or other debts into a single loan will usually find that the interest rate is fixed at the outset for the full term of the loan, which can be from one to five years.

Jean Eaglesham, senior researcher at the Consumers' Association, said: "It may make sense to consolidate debts into one loan but people should look at the total cost of credit. A loan may look cheaper but short term credit on credit cards is paid off more quickly and you are not locked into a long term loan."

The Alliance and Leicester Building Society is currently mailing customers, offering unsecured loans to consolidate other debts through Alliance and Leicester Personal Finance, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Trevor Hilliard, its managing director, said: "We don't mail specifically to people suggesting they should do a debt consolidation but we are saying if people are in the market for a loan they should consider Alliance and Leicester. If they do need cash to pay off expensive credit card bills we reckon our loan would be cheaper than most. We don't mail to people

who have started a mortgage in the last 12 months or who are more than one month in arrears."

Alliance and Leicester's unsecured loan has a 23.9 per cent APR on any loan of £2,000 or more repaid by direct debit, but customers wanting to make payments by another method would be charged 25.9 per cent on any amount. A letter to society customers says: "If you do need cash for improvements round the house, new furniture, a new kitchen or bathroom, a car or for paying off expensive credit card bills, this loan could be the quickest and simplest way to get the money you want."

The rates initially look cheap compared with those charged by credit cards, but if a borrower decides to pay off such loans early there is usually a penalty. Lloyds' Access card carries a rate of 26.8 per cent APR while Midland charges 32.1 per cent. Barclaycard users pay 27.8 per cent APR for credit and 28.1 per cent APR for cash advances. However, credit card issuers say that these rates will be cut if, as looks likely, interest rates fall another couple of points and borrowers will not be locked into these rates.

Ian Overpage, marketing manager of Save and Prosper, said: "We will see a reaction to the cut in interest rates although we would normally only change rates once or twice a

year." Save and Prosper charges 24.9 per cent APR for credit and 25.9 per cent for cash advances.

Banks and building societies offering personal loans point out that locking into a fixed rate loan can benefit customers when interest rates are high.

Barclays spokeswoman said: "It can work both ways and people have to assess the rates at the time."

Barclays and the Halifax will not offer unsecured loans for debt consolidation and say they do not actively promote the option of consolidating debts with a secured loan, although this is available. NatWest said it stopped advertising credit facilities 18 months ago but it still mails customers with offers of secured and unsecured loans.

A NatWest spokesman said: "We took conscious decision to be more reactive. We are providing a service for our customers and found they did not want unsecured loans, particularly as interest rates have been very high. Our last mailing to selected customers was in October."

A Halifax spokesman said: "We offer a roll-up facility with a secured loan. At the moment the rate is 18.9 per cent but this is variable and reviewed from time to time. We have written to our borrowers when we know they can afford it and we are considering a spring mailing."

## Doors finally close at Castlegate

CASTLEGATE Group Holdings and five subsidiary companies went into creditors' voluntary liquidation on Tuesday at the request of Roy Wharton, the group chairman (Sara McConnell writes).

The companies due to be wound up at a creditors' meeting at Reading, Berkshire, on December 19 are Castlegate Group Holdings, Castlegate Securities, Castlegate Administrative Services, Castlegate Financial Services (Reading), Castlegate Insurance Brokers (Reading) and Walford Finance.

Michael Hardy and Co, the estate agent, another Castlegate subsidiary, has been sold. Mr Wharton has called in Radford, Sons and Co, a Southampton accountant, as liquidator, but it is normal practice for the liquidator to be ratified by the creditors.

Michael Radford, senior partner at the liquidator's said it was not yet clear what the financial position of the Castlegate companies was.

But he added: "Mr Wharton is confident that all the money will be repaid. National Westminster Bank is owed a re-

turn of £1 million by the two companies. Harold Sorsky, a partner, said the companies borrowed money from the bank which they in turn lent out as mortgage advances on 60 properties.

Castlegate guaranteed advances made by the companies to borrowers.

The Capital Fund Owners Plan brochure promised: "Every advance made to borrowers is fully secured by a mortgage on residential property."

"Furthermore, Castlegate also guarantees these mortgages so full capital protection is assured."

Mr Radford said: "If Castlegate had a recourse agreement with these companies to cover them when borrowers let them down and Castlegate cannot keep this agreement, investors might have a claim against Castlegate."

Sorsky Specialised Financial Services, which was appointed joint administrative receiver for Brandon Finance and Walford Finance on November 19, said it was acting for a bank that was

investigating Castlegate and its subsidiaries in conjunction with the Serious Fraud Office. The officer in charge said it would be some months before enquiries were completed.

The Thames Valley Fraud

Unit is investigating Castlegate and its subsidiaries in conjunction with the Serious Fraud Office. The officer in charge said it would be some months before enquiries were completed.

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# A would-be pop star who struck a chord on supermarket stage

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
— BUSINESS PROFILE —

## John Hardman

**J**ohn Hardman is an unlikely pop star. The chairman of Asda, Britain's third largest supermarket group, is a small, round man with glasses and a bluff Liverpudlian style.

It is easier to imagine him pushing a trolley round one of his stores on a Saturday morning than strutting his stuff in the pubs and clubs of Liverpool on a Saturday night. But as the driving force behind The Zenith Four, Mr Hardman rocked with the best of them. John Lennon was a fellow classmate at Quarry Bank High School.

"Everyone in Liverpool had a group at that time," says Hardman. "You couldn't have had a group. It was me and a couple of friends of mine who were dockers and one pal from round the corner. We were really terrible. We'd practice for hours and hours but we would get worse rather than better. 'Diana' was the hit record at the time and we used to scream it out. We did about six shows, well six little bashes, and then embarrassment overtook us and we packed it in."

The career of the budding rock star ended when Hardman's father demolished the guitar in a fit of rage after the young John had been out late. But Hardman still cherishes a fantasy from the old days. "Given more time who knows, he says nostalgically. "If you listen to the Beatles' early stuff it was pretty dreadful too."

As a schoolboy Hardman was a reluctant scholar, wilfully ignorant. It is an epithet which some of his critics in the City believe has a relevance today. Hardman is not, by his own admission, a man for detail, preferring the broader picture. "I like to do things at my pace in my time," he says. "I don't like to be disciplined or organised." He can be stubborn.

He is an engaging man with an open, honest approach and friends speak of him fondly. Noel Stockdale, the ex-chairman of Asda who appointed Hardman as finance director in the early 1980s, says: "He is a first class man, a super fellow, straight as a die." Derek Hunt, chairman of MPI, which used to be part of the Asda group, says: "He's got a wicked sense of humour and the sort of mind that grasps wide issues quickly. He's very bright but he's also modest. People see him as a Liverpool lad, but he's much, much more."

If Hardman is an unlikely pop star, he is in many ways an unlikely chairman of one of Britain's biggest companies. He has none of the pomposity and little of the solemnity which goes with the job. His interests are broader than many of his peers and he is not afraid to admit that he likes having a good time outside work, on the golf course and supporting Liverpool football club.

"I'm the sort of person who enjoys life," he says. "I see these career guys working in business today, working and worrying. You have to have a life outside. Life isn't just about the pursuit of pleasure but you have to get some fun." His critics say he is "light-weight". Derek Hunt counters that saying: "He's a man who knows his own weaknesses and compensates for them."

The British business community actually works very hard. Much harder than its French, German, Italian or American

counterpart. Perhaps not as hard as the Japanese but then they are seriously different from us," says Hardman.

He is working harder than ever at present in an attempt to put Asda back on the right track and regain the confidence of the City. Last year was a poor year for the group and 1990 has not been much easier.

The Canadian Belzberg brothers took a threatening stake in the business, the group's results were disappointing and, in April this year, the shares fell to an eight-year low of 88p. There was criticism of the £705 million acquisition of 61 supermarkets from Gateway and expensive problems with the central distribution system. Two institutional shareholders were unsupportive and there were calls for his resignation.

Hardman is a fighter, but even so he is not immune to the criticism he has faced. "There was a time when people were going round saying the management's rubbish, and that isn't on. It's not true and it's not fair. It's bloody hurtful."

The last six years have been the hardest I've ever had in my life. They've knocked some of the carefree spirit out of me. It's my innate Liverpudlian, my sense of humour, that keeps me going. I hate to lose," he says.

**H**ardman is convinced he will regain the ground Asda lost to Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway in the late Seventies. Derek Hunt, who worked closely with Hardman at Asda, also believes the current supermarket formula is right. "He is still following the five-year plan he put in place in 1987 and he is doing the right thing," says Hunt. "He has had a lot of adversity but he's a stickler and a survivor. Eventually companies get the share rating they deserve and I believe Asda is a good bet for the future."

The City is still divided on the issue and Hardman's profile is not the strongest. "I don't know why he doesn't shine in the City," says Hunt. Philip Dorgan, food retail analyst at Goldman Sachs, says: "Asda has been through a rough patch and John Hardman has faced a testing time. They are doing all the right things now and the shares should be bought for recovery."

But some analysts and institutional investors retain doubts about the quality of the management, the quality of the store portfolio and the £900 million of debt. Most agree that Hardman cannot afford to make any more mistakes but they also believe he has survived the worst. In the City's eyes he is slowly being rehabilitated.

John Nunn Hardman was born in Liverpool on October 8, 1939, the only son in a family of six daughters. Hardman had a happy childhood. It was a domestic scene which was never boring. "There was always something

going on, usually mayhem. You had to look after yourself from a very early age otherwise you were drowned by the rest of the herd. My sisters would say I was spoilt. I would say I was terrorised," says Hardman.

His father, Harry, used to run Vennors Pools and was the man who invented the triple chance. His mother, Florence, was an excellent card player and Hardman himself enjoys gambling. He has a stake in two racehorses, one of which, Sir Harry Hardman, won the Cartier Challenge in September at Phoenix Park in Dublin, netting the four-man syndicate £140,000. He still keeps closely in touch with his family and has friends who date back to his Liverpool primary school days.

Despite spending more time on the football and cricket pitches than in academic study, Hardman did well enough in his final exams to go to Liverpool University where he studied economics. "I went to university out of sheer fear of the outside world," he says.

"I went to Liverpool University because I was playing football in Liverpool and that was pretty serious. In Liverpool playing football was a natural thing to do. I wish I were fit enough to play one-

"The last six years have been the hardest I've ever had in my life. They've knocked some of the carefree spirit out of me. It's my innate Liverpudlian, my sense of humour, that keeps me going. I hate to lose"

and-half hours' good football at a decent amateur level again."

He left university and joined a firm of chartered accountants called Duncan, Watson & Short. "Knowing your way around a profit and loss account and a balance sheet is useful but it's not the end of the world," he says. "I cherish the times I had as an articled clerk in Liverpool. Some of the things we got up to were mind-boggling. I suppose we were reasonably well-educated juvenile delinquents looking for any reason to let off steam."

It was while he was training to be an accountant that he met his wife Joan, a stewardess with British Airways. They started going out together whenever she was home and they married 25 years ago. "It's worked out terribly well, which is really a testimony to Joan's fortitude," he says. "The saving grace of our marriage is that we haven't seen that much of each other. We've never lived on top of each other. She's one of these people who is quite happily independent and we don't put a lot of pressure on each other."

He says he is the type of person who gets bored easily, which was one of the reasons he left accountancy to take up the challenge of general management, joining the Radio Corporation of America in 1966. He helped to run a company manufacturing picture tubes for televisions until it was put out of business by Japanese competition in 1973.

He stayed with RCA, moving his family, which by this time included his son Mike and daugh-



Apart yet together: John Hardman and wife Joan, far from the London he has no time for, at their home in Wetherby

ter Jake, to America, firstly Pennsylvania and then New York. They returned five years later. "At the end of the day I wanted to come home," he says. "It sounds a bit wimpish but it's true. The only place I ever wanted to live was the north of England. I didn't want my children to grow up Americans." He has a house in Wetherby, West

Yorkshire. It is his only property and when he travels to London he stays in hotels. "I wouldn't live in London for all the tea in China," he says. "It's all right to visit if you have to."

On returning to Britain, he moved to Oriel Foods which James Gulliver, the Scottish entrepreneur, had built up and sold to RCA. It was there that he met John Fletcher, who now runs Budgens, the food retailing group, but who was at that time running Oriel.

The accounts were produced once a quarter, three months after the quarter end. "It was a very old fashioned business," says Hardman. There was no plan for the future. It had a big price advantage over the competition but every year it was being eroded. It was fine while there was no competition because it was like a bloody big Aladdin's cave."

His diagnosis of the business was not shared by Fletcher. "John didn't want to know," says Hardman. "He was very aloof. As each year went by the arguments got more and more profound. We

missed an amazing opportunity in the late Seventies and early Eighties to stamp our mark. Asda stood still at a time when Sainsbury and Tesco were on the move. We kept arguing about what to do and that argued only stopped when John was fired."

Hardman stepped into Fletcher's shoes. Their relationship was irreparably damaged. "If you were to interview John Fletcher today I think he would say that I was the guy who shafted him. But I was not saying anything to others that I wasn't saying to him. There was no back stabbing," says Hardman.

Fletcher refuses to talk about the incident.

**B**ut Hardman insists he is no politician. "I can't understand politics in business. I don't understand what it is that motivates people to be politicians. I think they want something out of business which business can't give them. I don't like people trying to manipulate me." Nevertheless it was nothing short of a boardroom coup which put him where he is.

He admits that there is still a long way to go at Asda and he intends to stay with the business until he has finished the job. "I have a burning ambition to get Asda right," he says. Of the 200

stores now in the portfolio only 95 have been refurbished in the new Asda style.

But he does not intend to retire at Asda. "Once we've cracked it I'd probably be a bloody nuisance as a chairman," he says. He is not sure what he will do next. "I'm 51 and I'm still trying to work out what I want to do with the rest of my life. I won't go into graceful retirement and I don't want to become a non-executive but either I want to do a job." His dream is to tour the golf courses of Britain with his son.

He has few regrets in life but

admits to a feeling of guilt that he

has not been as good a parent as he

might have been. Apart from the

racehorses and a Daimler there are

few luxuries. He earned £231,000

last year, taking a £30,000 pay cut

to reflect the fall in Asda's profits.

"We live very well indeed but it's

a high life," he says.

"I don't want to be beholden to anyone. I rather live and die by my own judgment than anyone else's. I don't like bosses, that's why I'm a boss. I probably should have worked for myself. I like calling the shots. It's not because I want to be powerful, it's because I don't want anyone to mess me about."

"But I don't like people thinking I'm important, it makes me feel uncomfortable. I'm glad I wasn't a pop star."

## US legal ethics go on trial

### CAPITAL CITY

CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK



Pitfall: New York roadworks

tions", as they invented injuries, fabricated evidence and bought false testimony, said Jerome Roth, the prosecutor.

Among witnesses, the prosecution is calling Arnold Lustig, who made a living as something of a professional passer-by. He testified he happened to be driving past scenes of alleged accidents and could always swear that he saw the pothole just where the victim said it was. As an example of the firm's ethics, the Eisen lawyers were alleged to have ordered their assistants into life with members of the jury to win them over.

In one ingenious ploy, they were alleged to have used a shrunken ruler in photographs that exaggerated the size of offending potholes in cases against the city council. The lawyers "were really limited only by their own imagina-

Eisen and his associates are not taking the charges lying down. They plan to call experts and witnesses with a view to showing the jury that the prosecutors bought or coerced their own witnesses. The federal government was trying to send a message, thundered the chief lawyer for the lawyers. "Don't win too much money and don't fight too hard against us."

With all the lawyers involved, it is not surprising that the trial is expected to last between four and six months. If convicted, the Eisen practice could find itself behind bars for about two decades.

Theirs is far from the only case of allegedly crooked lawyers to hit the headlines in recent months. As times become harder, more and more lawyers are succumbing to the temptation to take their own clients for a ride. The New York state bar has already paid out \$4.4 million from a special fund this year in compensation for the malfeasance of its own members.

Such cases have included that of Lawrence Patterson, a Pennsylvania lawyer, who pocketed \$225,000 in won damages for a client whose brother was killed in an air crash. Mr Patterson never told the client that he had won the case.

The most creative piece of legal thievery to come to light was committed by a New York lawyer who inserted an imaginary heiress into an illiterate client's will. When the client died, the fictional relative came in for half the estate and the lawyer almost got away with it, according to an account in *The Wall Street Journal*. When the family demanded proof, the lawyer disguised himself as the woman and checked into a local hotel. But the receptionist grew suspicious of the mysterious woman in sunglasses and reported her to police. The lawyer was disbarred.

Many of the tales come from Stephen Dilophos, a former managing lawyer at the firm who has turned state's witness. But Mr

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January 1991

# WEEKEND MONEY

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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 1990

**SUMMARY****Stags are roaring to sell**

MORE than eight million people have applied for electricity shares and many have already made arrangements to make sure they can sell their allocations on Tuesday afternoon as soon as dealing starts.

Brokers report that up to 70 per cent of applicants are planning to stag the issue in the hope of quick profits. Many have learned a lesson from the water flotation and have spread their applications over several or all of the companies instead of applying for a large number of shares in just one

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**Rock steady**

The former driving force behind The Zenith Four pop group is now chairman of Asda supermarkets. John Hardman tells Gillian Bowditch how his pop career came to an abrupt end when his father broke his guitar, and how he overcame his disappointment by rising to the top of Britain's third largest supermarket chain

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**Cards code**

A new code of practice urges banks to limit liability for all lost or stolen cards to £50 unless customers have been negligent, a move which is generally welcomed by banks. But the code does not make it clear how negligence should be defined

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**Loan trap**

Building societies and banks are continuing to offer unsecured loans for consolidating other debts into one. Customers can find themselves locked into higher rates for longer periods, with penalties for paying off the loan early

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**Castlegate closes**  
Castlegate, the Reading firm that offered 20 per cent investment returns, has gone into voluntary liquidation at the request of Roy Wharton, its chairman

Page 40

**Act of God**

God moves in mysterious ways and compensates Sydney Donald for falling masonry from a Methodist church. But it nearly ended up in the small claims court. All is revealed in readers' letters

Page 39

**Tessa tempters**  
Banks and building societies such as Lloyds, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Bank of Scotland and Chelsea are devising more offers to persuade people to invest in Tessa

Page 39

**New broom at BTR**

"In Australia, the word is Alan Jackson walks on water. Who else, they say, could have transformed an obscure hose and belting manufacturer into the country's second-biggest company in little more than a decade?"

*The new head of BTR, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.*

★ ★ ★

**Inheritors cash in on rise in property values**

IT IS not only the meek who are inheriting the earth. The Henley Centre for Forecasting estimates that 50 per cent of people over 50 will inherit £50,000 or more. Last year, £14.7 billion was inherited by British families, and a report carried out by the centre for the Household Mortgage Corporation, published this week, shows that the amount of property being passed on is rising rapidly (Lindsay Cook writes).

In 1980 bricks and mortar accounted for £2.16 billion of the inheritances received in Britain; this year, the figure is expected to be £7.92 billion. By the end of

the century the Henley centre calculates £28.79 billion worth of property will be passed on from one generation to the next. In the past, homes have made up approximately half of the total inherited each year. If this continues, by the year 2000, the annual inheritance for British families is likely to pass £55 billion.

The one million council house sales over the last decade were one factor in the increase in inheritance value. These sales had slowed since the peak years, but Duncan Young, HMC managing director, said the long-term effect of the policy of selling council houses would be dramatic. "Our figures show that even in 1989 more than 200,000 council homes were sold to

their tenants. The fact that there are fewer homes in Britain than there are people wanting to buy them means that the value of these homes is going to rise by more than the rate of inflation."

HMC, along with other financial institutions, is keen to know how much is being inherited because it is a crucial factor in people's total incomes. Mr Young continued: "It may well be that, as people inherit, the savings that were invested in homes rather than the economy over the past ten years will move in the opposite direction."

In the past, some of the inherited money had gone towards property purchase. This was thought to be particularly the case in 1988, when house prices in the Southeast rose to more than five times annual earnings. Usually the ratio is less than four. Many first-time buyers were putting down larger than expected deposits on properties, indicating that inherited money was in some cases bypassing a generation.

The latest survey, an update on 1988, suggests that 48 per cent of money inherited will be invested. People throughout the country were asked what they would spend £20,000 on if they inherited such a sum. Almost half, 48 per cent, said they would invest or save it.

More than a fifth, 22 per cent, said they would spend it on housing, while another 4 per cent would buy things for their home. One in ten would share the money with their family and 7 per cent would start a business.

The HMC spokesman said that two factors could change the amount of property inherited in the next few years. The first was an improvement in home income plan schemes, which allow elderly people to use part of the value of their home to produce an income. A great many old people wanted to realise such money, but tax restrictions prevented them. An increase in the use of such schemes would reduce the amount to be inherited, particularly in the Southeast. It would also increase the number of wealthy older people.

The increasing trend towards longer mortgage periods and interest-only loans would mean that more people would die with a mortgage still to be paid off from the proceeds of the sale of the family home.

The annual heritable wealth survey produced by Snee and Ford, probate specialists, shows that not only is the total amount inherited increasing, but the size of individual estates is also rising fast. In the last survey 453 wills involved £1

million or more, an increase of 30 per cent on the previous year.

The post-war increase in home ownership and rising property prices in the Seventies and Eighties have contributed most to this. The difference in house prices between the north and south and the uneven spread of home ownership throughout the country mean that inheritance also varies. Home ownership has exceeded 70 per cent in the Southeast, while in Scotland just over 50 per cent of homes are owner-occupied.

In the north, it is still possible to buy terraced family homes for £35,000 to £40,000, whereas in Greater London average prices are nearing £90,000. The average Greater London estate was £87,000 last year, compared with £45,000 in the Northeast. These averages do not include disposals made seven years before death to escape inheritance tax, which is charged at 40 per cent on estates worth more than £128,000. Only 22,000 estates are expected to pay inheritance tax this year, with a total £1 billion for collection.

As most inheritors were in their forties or fifties, pensions were often considered a suitable investment. The tax incentives for people who have not provided fully for their old age made a pension an attractive option. Many inheritors tended towards cautious investment with money received from parents because they knew it was worked hard for, he added.

market for grandchildren. "Inheritance will be much more important in the Nineties as the people who bought their first homes after the Second World War begin to die," said Mr Marsh. "The majority of people want to save money that is inherited and there is a limited amount of paying off mortgages, but not much."

Mr Marsh said that few people inherited the whole family home. They usually shared it with brothers and sisters or cousins. In such cases, the property had to be sold and the beneficiaries had to make a decision about investment.

"The average house price in the UK is £67,000 and the majority of properties are inherited by two or three people, giving them each £22,000, ideal for building societies. Gradually some of the money might be transferred elsewhere but societies tend to be the first parking place."

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DES JENSON

**Hunting around can run heirs to ground**

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

"TO WHOM it may concern: a fortune has been left to you in a relative's will." Such advertisements appear regularly in newspapers throughout Britain. Yet hundreds of people never discover the large sums of money that have been left to them in wills (Lindsay Cook writes).

Increasingly, British families are growing apart and losing touch. Illegitimate children often do not know who their parents are. When a relative dies and leaves them money they do not hear about it.

Enter the tracing agencies. They are growing businesses throughout Britain. Executors and legal firms are using them more and more to trace all the beneficiaries of estates. For a percentage of the legacy involved or for a fee, they will go to extraordinary lengths to find missing nephews and nieces.

George Hooper and Sons, the biggest of three tracing agencies, has been going since 1923. It now handles between 200 and 300 estates a year, sometimes searching for a single named beneficiary, and occasionally for an entire family. Roger Hooper, grandson of the founder and the present head of the firm, said it is an interestingly important business.

"Quite often cases are just a mystery. The person who has died has succeeded in eliminating their past and their money passes to the state," he said. The largest estate handled by Hooper's was more than £300,000. The firm was able to trace all the beneficiaries.

"We are going to get an increase in the number of cases where it is difficult to trace beneficiaries because of the problems of illegitimacy. Illegitimate children are not ruled out of benefiting from an estate, but often they cannot identify who their parents are. The number of illegitimate births is now running at 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the total."

Adopted children are treated in law in the same way as the natural children of the family that adopts them. But they lose any rights to the estate of their natural parents.

Mr Hooper said that his company's searches extended all over the world. The firm has an office in Toronto, Canada, and agents in most countries. "We often help them with their tracing and they reciprocate when we need to make enquiries further afield."

Much of the tracing is necessary because people do not make a will or because the wording is imprecise. "Any lawyer should be able to advise a client to make sure that the intentions are clear, but we still have to find people when a will says 'to my good friend John

destroyed all evidence of her background, attracted publicity this summer when her home and contents were auctioned. While the amount involved was large, the circumstances were not very unusual, according to Mr Hooper.

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